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Jagat Singh
Ran

MY TRAVELS IN CHINA, JAPAN AND JAVA, 1903

By H.H. THE RAJA-I-RAJGAN
JAGATJIT SINGH of Kapurthala

WITH 56 ILLUSTRATIONS
A PHOTOGRAVURE FRONTISPICE
AND A MAP

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P R E F A C E

THIS book is written chiefly as a record of my brief visit to the Far East and for the purpose of presentation to my friends. It makes no pretension to literary excellence, being designed more as a record of facts and personal impressions of people and places seen, than to emphasise any claim, on my part, to consideration from the public as an author.

It may, I hope, be found interesting to those who are now following the course of the war between Russia and Japan, as it describes, to a certain extent, some things about the latter country, and it gives a brief account of some interesting parts of Manchuria and other places, on which, owing to the war, public interest is now centred. Impending hostilities rendered my visit to Japan peculiarly opportune, and the study of the people of that country an unusually interesting one.

From the standpoint of the traveller, Japan is perhaps one of the most interesting countries in the world; the country itself is full of delightful and varied scenery, while its people possess a charm of appearance and manner unlike anything of the kind to be met with elsewhere.

Parts of China and Java were also visited by me; but of the people of those countries I have little to say in praise. The Chinese appear to be indifferent to the course of present events; they seem to possess no national ideals, and I was much struck by the obvious individual selfishness of the people, among whom patriotism and public spirit had no existence. The Javanese are absolutely apathetic; a display of energy on their part seems an impossibility. Both countries are, however, interesting and well worth a visit.

My only regret, in connection with this record, is that the time at my disposal having been very limited, I was perforce able to give a short and usually insufficient time to the observation of the habits and thoughts of the different people I came in contact with; a whole year could easily have been spent on this quest.

It now only remains for me to acknowledge the

invariable kindness and hospitality with which I was met on all hands during my travels, and to thank all those who assisted me in my search for information and particulars of the different places I visited.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jagat Singh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

KAPURTHALA,

December 1, 1904.

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H. H.
Rani
Sahiba

Dr.
Parra
Mal.

His Highness.

Lala
Shivnaram,
Acting Secretary



HIS HIGHNESS AND PARTY.

[Facing p. 1]

MY TRAVELS IN THE FAR EAST

I

JOURNEY TO COLOMBO

WE left Mussoorie on October 10, and after spending three days at Kapurthala, to enable me to make a few final arrangements, we reached Bombay on the 16th. Leaving that place by the Messageries Maritimes steamer *Oceanien* on the 18th, we got to Colombo four days afterwards. The steamer was of moderate size only ; but as the captain and officers were most courteous and obliging, we were quite comfortable. The voyage was almost without incident ; but during the first two days there was something of a swell on, and in consequence my spirits were less exalted than usual : a reclining position, however, tended to prevent actual sea-sickness. There was quite a gale blowing when

we reached Colombo, and it rained heavily ; so we were glad to get ashore and make ourselves at home, for the time being, at the Galle Face Hotel—a place not unknown to me, as I stayed there on my visit to Colombo during the preceding March. It is a most luxurious hotel, from which one gets a fine view of the sea from two sides. The rain had made the weather quite pleasant and cool, and the drives we had in this so-called "Emerald Isle of the East" were more than usually enjoyable.

On the 23rd we sailed again on the *Ernest Simon* for Singapore. The *Ernest Simon*—of about 6,000 tons—is a much bigger and better boat than the one we travelled in from Bombay, and she carried a good complement of first, second, and third-class passengers. The *cabin de luxe* on the main deck was allotted for my use. The comfort and convenience of such cabins is very great, and the fact of it being available on these steamers was one of the reasons which induced me to travel by the Messageries steamers in preference to the P. & O. The latter company's boats are very good ; but the management is never so willing to do anything a little bit out of the ordinary run of things for one as is the Messageries—hence my preference for the French

line. The vessel was not strange to me, as I travelled in her once before when I went to Europe in 1898. Among the first-class passengers were a good number of French officers en route to French Indo-China ; and among the second-class lot was a theatrical troupe bound to the same destination. Two or three such companies go to the French possessions in the East every year, where the people subscribe towards the cost of bringing them out and sending them back again ; the Government also grants a liberal subsidy. If some such arrangement was made in India, we might occasionally have the pleasure of seeing a theatrical company worthy of the name.

During the first two days out from Colombo the weather was again squally ; but as I had, by that time, got my sea legs, I did not mind it all. For the remainder of the trip nothing could have been finer than the weather we had, and the sea was just like a mill-pond.

On the 27th we passed some islands and got into the Straits of Malacca ; on one side of us was Dutch Sumatra, and on the other the British Malay States.

We arrived at Singapore on the 28th, and lost no

time in going ashore to have a look about. It is a most interesting place to visit, as all the steamers in the Eastern trade touch there. On landing, we were much astonished to notice the extraordinary mixture of races there appeared to be ; besides Europeans and Americans, there were Malays, Javanese, Tamils, and a good many Sikhs. Of course, the Chinese predominated ; there is a population of above 100,000 of that race in Singapore. All these people seemed happy and contented under the protection of the flag which covers the "teeming millions" of India. In the European quarter there were some handsome buildings to be seen. After *déjeuner* and a rest at Raffles Hotel, we visited the Waterworks, which are situated on a height commanding a fine view of the city and harbour ; thence we went to Government House, which is a handsome building situated in a beautiful park. We had to be aboard again by two o'clock, as we sailed shortly after that hour.

It was interesting to see the shipping in the harbour, where ships from all parts of the world were anchored. The heat was very trying, but this was not to be wondered at, as Singapore is only one degree above the Equator ; the weather is, moreover, much the same there at all times of the year, and

the atmosphere is always more or less saturated with moisture, which makes the heat more difficult to bear.

Cape St. Jacques was sighted early on the morning of the 28th, and shortly afterwards we entered the river, which is not wider than perhaps a couple of hundred feet or so. On both sides of the river, rice (the staple product there) was in full cultivation. We dropped anchor at ten o'clock, and immediately after went ashore at Saigon. This was the first French colony I had ever visited : my curiosity was consequently at the highest pitch, as I was keen on making comparisons between English and French methods of administration. Jinrickshaws and miserable little carts were at the landing-place to convey passengers to their destinations ; we selected one of the latter, drawn by a tiny pony, to take us to the Hôtel Continental, where, on arrival, I was horrified to hear that nothing eatable was to be had with the exception of cold meat. The reason given was that the shops and places of business, as well as the market, were always closed between ten and two o'clock, after which they remained open until eight at night. After much difficulty and no small amount of persuasion, the French manager turned out a fairly good breakfast at midday. The difficulty about meals was,

however, not the only one, for I found the rooms dirty and the beds so uninviting that it became imperative to look for other quarters. We finally succeeded in getting fairly good rooms at a place called the Hôtel Olivier.

The one big street in Saigon is called the Rue de Catinat. It is quite equal in appearance to one in a provincial town in France, and it is well arranged with trees on either side ; it also has some very fair shops stocked chiefly with French goods. Of course, everything was French in appearance, and the inhabitants, who were Chinese and Annamese, talked a curious "pidgin" French, which I could, with difficulty, understand. Before starting for a drive it was necessary to have the driver instructed where he had to go, etc. During the afternoon I was surprised to find beautifully laid out boulevards and well-kept roads and squares. The place has a number of French residents, most of whom are Government officials of sorts ; they seemed to be very numerous. The public buildings, such as Government House, the Post Office, and the Cathedral are all fine specimens of architecture in the French style ; they were profusely adorned with statuary, and these, as well as the residential villas

of the better class of inhabitants, are very artistic in appearance. There are also a large number of *cafés* and restaurants, the best or most popular of which is the Café de la Musique, which is extensively patronised morning and evening. A gipsy band played at odd times, and helped to make things cheerful. The whole presented a striking contrast to anything we are accustomed to in India. Near by is a theatre—a very handsome building which is said to have cost a million francs. During six months of the year a theatrical company from France plays operatic pieces, and these, needless to say, are highly appreciated by the *habitués* of the place.

It was noticeable that every Frenchman, from the Governor-General downwards, was dressed in white duck ; this costume they wore all day and in the evening. The ladies were few in number, and after those seen in Paris were disappointing in appearance. A nice breeze made the evening pleasantly cool.

The next morning we saw the Zoological Gardens, which were beautifully arranged, and contained quite a good collection of animals and birds of different kinds. On the way to the gardens we passed the

barracks of the French troops, where a number of marines were also quartered. The barracks are commodious three-storey buildings, and appeared to be well adapted to the purpose for which they were intended. We also saw a number of Annamese soldiers ; but these were an insignificant lot and not to be compared to our Indian troops. The total number of French European troops in French Indo-China is about 15,000. The hospital accommodation in this place is unusually commodious, and the hospital itself is always more or less full, owing to the unhealthiness of the climate for Europeans.

In the afternoon we drove to the Chinese quarter, about four miles off, where the Chinese simply swarmed ; they are great traders, and the volume of business they do seems to be very large.

I wanted to see the internal arrangements of a well-to-do Chinaman's house, so we visited one, and were very politely received. Contrary to my expectation, the house was very well kept, and, after its own peculiar style, comfortable. We afterwards visited the house of an Annamese nobleman, who was most courteous, and deputed his daughter to show us over the place. The daughter was a dainty, doll-like girl who spoke French with facility ; she ex-

plained, in that language, all about the different works of art from China, Annam, and Japan, of which the house possessed an interesting collection. Her brothers had been educated in France; one of them was aide-de-camp to the Governor-General, and had passed through St. Cyr, the great military school in France.

M. Beau, the Governor-General, invited me to see him and dine with him during my stay in Saigon; but being called away to Cape St. Jacques, he eventually found it impossible to keep his engagement, as he was delayed by a typhoon during his return. Attended by one of my staff, I dined at Government House, where, owing to the absence of the Governor-General, I was received and entertained by the Assistant Governor-General and the Governor's staff. The house is a very fine one; the entrance hall and the *salle-des-fêtes* were quite imposing in their grandeur. After dinner the conversation turned on the subject of administration, from which I gathered a good deal of information on the interesting matter. We discussed the relations existing between the Suzerain power and its so-called neighbouring kingdoms of Annam and Cambodia, which admitted of no autonomy, the latter merely

receiving suitable allowances with due maintenance of respective titles, while the whole administration and the budgets remain entirely in the hands of the French residents. On my telling my hosts of the privileges enjoyed by the Indian princes under the British, and asking why the nominal sovereigns, under the French, had no share in the government of their countries, the reply I got was, "Mais ça n'entre pas dans l'esprit français," meaning, that such an idea cannot be grasped by the French mind.

The following morning I went to see the large college at Saigon. The Governor's Annamese aide-de-camp attended and took much trouble in showing me all the classes and explaining all there was to be seen. The building was quadrangular in shape, one side of which was reserved for the French and Eurasian pupils, and the other for the natives. All the teachers are French, and the degree of proficiency attained by the native pupils seemed to be very fairly good, as far as I could judge in the short time I spent there. At the school I am describing the native pupils are only taught clerical subjects to fit them for subordinate appointments ; if they desire a higher education, they are obliged to go to France to acquire it.

On my way to the steamer I had the good fortune to have a short interview with the Governor-General, who had just returned. M. Beau is said to be one of the most able French administrators, but for one of his country his manner was distinctly reserved.

In French Indo-China no period of office is fixed for the Governor-General; he may be sent for at any time to return to France just as convenience and expediency dictate.

Our steamer left at 10 a.m., and so ended our pleasant and instructive sojourn in Saigon.

Three days' steaming took us to Hong-Kong, at which important place we arrived on October 5. The view, on arriving in the harbour, is a very striking one, and it is justly said to be one of the finest in the world. The whole harbour is surrounded by high hills, which form a perfect amphitheatre, which not only protect the shipping, but constitute the most beautiful background imaginable.

Immediately after casting anchor we went ashore and took up our quarters at the King Edward Hotel, a place owned and managed by Parsees, and, I may add, very well managed. Breakfast over we went for a drive through Queen's Street, the

principal business street in the place. Thence we went to see the Happy Valley, where races are run and polo is played; it is an ideal spot for such purposes, and the surroundings are appropriate and pretty.

I was much astonished to see so many Indians so far from their homes: all the policemen are Sikhs, and I was told the local *budmashes* looked on them with terror; one Sikh policeman was estimated to be the equal of ten loafers of Chinese nationality.

The garrison consists of three English and three Indian regiments, such a large number of men being necessitated by the proximity of China proper, among other reasons.

It is perfectly obvious that the Chinese, who form the bulk of the population of Hong-Kong, are considerably better off than are their compatriots in China. The Chinese, although very industrious, I must say are as stupid as can be imagined; it seemed to be impossible to make them understand what one wanted. During my drive we passed the statue of Queen Victoria, and, in order to estimate the degree of intelligence possessed by our coachman, I asked him whose statue it was. I was

amused and astonished when he replied, "Englishman!" On another occasion I went to an hotel and selected certain dishes from the menu for dinner, and took a lot of trouble to explain exactly what was wanted to the Chinese head-waiter ; the matter ended by his inquiring if we were dining there!

Our steamer was booked to leave at five o'clock, but information reached us that it would be impossible to leave that day, on account of a typhoon which had been reported as raging about two hundred miles outside. This news did not cause us any sorrow as we had by no means done Hong-Kong ; and it gave us the opportunity of seeing other places of interest. For instance, we took the steam tramway and went to the top of a hill which must have been 2,000 feet high. On reaching the summit, we found an hotel called the "Peak," which was well situated and commanded a fine view of the harbour and the shipping. As the darkness increased, the view at our feet became more and more entrancing. Hundreds of lights, which looked like fairy-lamps dotted about, twinkled in the twilight ; the lights were those of the ships in the harbour. The scene was particularly charming, and one not likely to be forgotten. The Peak

Hotel (a four-storey building) we found very comfortable. Some private houses, as well as a house for the Governor, are also situated on the hill, presumably on account of its salubrious climate. We dined at the Peak Hotel, and left immediately afterwards, much to our regret, as we were obliged to embark, our steamer leaving shortly after we got on board. Outside the harbour we met with no indication of the typhoon which had been reported ; indeed, the sea was as smooth as a lake, and remained so for the next two days. Our steamer skirted the coast of China, of which we got occasional glimpses ; we also passed a number of steamers from time to time.

II

CHINA

ABOUT two o'clock on the afternoon of the 8th we reached Woosung, and soon afterwards all the passengers were transhipped to a steam launch, in which we ascended the river on which Shanghai is situated. Ships of nearly all nationalities were anchored in the river, and some American warships attracted our particular attention. Having reached Shanghai at about six in the evening, we drove straight to the Astor House Hotel, the biggest hotel in the place; but were unfortunate in not being able to secure rooms there. Accordingly we went farther afield, and finally got fairly good accommodation at the Hôtel des Colonies in the French Concession. The next day I went for a drive just to get a general idea of the place. Shanghai is, as every one knows, a large commercial city, with a population of 700,000, most of which is Chinese. Of Europeans and Americans there are about 8,000; but although

Europeans of nearly all nationalities lived there, it was noticeable that the Anglo-Saxon predominated. As regards its government, Shanghai is probably the most curious in the world. At first a stranger is at a loss to know in whose country and under whose laws he is living. While Shanghai is actually on Chinese soil, its municipality is international, and the people of different nationalities who reside there are tried and judged by their own courts. I visited one of the mixed English tribunals, where an English and a Chinese magistrate sat jointly and tried offenders brought before them. The proceedings were conducted in rotation: that is to say, on one occasion a Chinese magistrate will sit with a German; on another occasion his colleague will be a Frenchman, and so on. He sits most frequently, however, with an Englishman, because of the preponderating interest of the latter nationality as compared with other nations.

The proceedings of the mixed tribunal affect that portion of Shanghai known as the Foreign Settlement only. The city of Shanghai proper is under the jurisdiction of Chinese officials only.

The English magistrate who was sitting at the time of my visit introduced me to his Chinese

colleague, who, from the fact of his wearing the peacock feather and a necklace of some kind of large beads, was a Mandarin of high degree. I was conducted to the Court and given the seat of honour on the bench, from which coign of vantage I could see and hear all that went on with facility. The arrangements for the trial and the conduct of it I found to be most interesting. The culprits were brought into court, where they remained in charge of a Sikh policeman ; the counsel, or pleaders, were English and Chinese, and each pleaded the cause of his client in the language of his own country. The magistrates made notes of the case in their respective languages, and finally came to a decision, which, before being made public, had to be a mutual one. The case tried during my visit was a somewhat lengthy one, and I could not therefore wait until its conclusion, as there was the prison and other places to be seen.

The police is mainly English, Sikhs, and Chinese. The French have their own municipality, controlled by their Consul-General, under French laws ; it goes by the name of the French Concession. There are probably not more than four hundred French people in the place.

We drove along a road facing the river for about three miles, where we saw some very fine and handsome public buildings. Thence we went down the Nankin road, where some good European shops attracted our attention ; there we found a really good assortment of all kinds of things one was likely to want. Another fine drive we had took us to the Bubble Well road, which skirts the large racecourse and recreation grounds, and is about five miles long. Skirting this road are some exceptionally fine double-storied residences belonging to rich European and Chinese merchants.

During my stay in Shanghai I also went to a concert, where I heard a famous French singer, whose performance delighted the audience. On another occasion I witnessed a boxing-match between the sailors of the English and American war-ships in the harbour. The partisans of the opposing sides were enthusiastic in their demonstrations ; the gathering was an extremely rowdy one, and not to my taste.

On the 11th I visited the Chinese city which adjoins the foreign concession at Shanghai, which, although worth visiting for curiosity's sake, was so filthy as to take away all pleasure from the visit.

Words cannot describe the variety and strength of the smells we encountered, and we were, perforce, obliged to keep our handkerchiefs applied to our noses continuously. The streets were so narrow as not to admit the passage of a 'rickshaw, so we were obliged to go a-foot. The chief attraction of the shops were the curios they contained ; these were great both in number and variety, and I could not forego the opportunity of purchasing some. Fixed prices did not prevail, and in this respect the Chinaman is the same as Orientals all over the world. The shopkeepers were not at all eager to sell, and indeed adopted a somewhat independent attitude in their relations towards customers. We noticed some tea-houses as we went along, where people were drinking tea out of small cups, without the admixture of milk and sugar usual with us ; they were seated on narrow benches, and their cups were placed on tables. From all I hear, the Chinese system of cookery has little to recommend it, and some of their dishes are positively revolting to the senses of taste and smell. For instance, I was informed that one of their most prized delicacies consisted of a preparation of chicken which was buried for six months before being made ready for the table.

Another place of the utmost interest we saw was an opium den ; there we saw people in all stages of intoxication. As a sort of recreation, Chinese are known sometimes deliberately to smoke sufficient opium to keep them in a comatose condition for days at a time. To see people under the influence of the drug is sufficient to convince the most sceptical of the degradation engendered by the habitual use of it. During the afternoon Mr. Mansfield, the British Consul-General, called on me and took me to the country club, which is placed in the middle of a beautiful park. The club is a most extensive place, and possesses some very handsome public rooms.

Several newspapers—some English, one American, one French, and one German—are published daily in Shanghai ; they partake more of the style of journalism current in America than anything we have in India. The papers are full of all kinds of interesting news from every part of the world, and they appear to be conducted with all the enterprise for which the American papers are renowned. After the prosy news of transfers of officers from one station to another (which usually interests only those transferred) and the sadly uninteresting news of Indian stations generally, it was quite refreshing

to find well-conducted, enterprising, and up-to-date journals in this place. At night I visited a Chinese theatre, which was indeed an interesting sight. There were the usual boxes, pit, etc. ; and during the performance the audience drank tea and smoked to their heart's content. A curious way of looking after the comfort of the patrons, I noticed, was that waiters went about with warm wet towels, which the people used for wiping their hands and faces. The play I witnessed was based on Chinese history. Some of the actors danced and sang in a manner somewhat resembling that to which one is accustomed in India ; their headdresses were very grotesque in shape, and their antics reminded one of the "Ram Lela" in Northern India. Among the audience were a good many Chinese ladies : they were prettily dressed in garments of multifarious colours ; they were fair in complexion, but, notwithstanding their natural advantage in this respect, their faces were thickly daubed with rouge and powder. The practice of binding the girl children's feet prevails to a great extent ; the result is that grown women have feet the size of an ordinary child of five or six. The distortion is not pretty, and the difficulty in walking is most marked.

At night the streets presented a most animated appearance ; they were brilliantly lighted, and almost every other house had an upper floor which might be described as a tea-house or restaurant, in which singing-girls chanted and danced while the on-lookers smoked long pipes, with water in them, and drank tea. The common use of tea-houses in China corresponds with the Europeans' custom of taking refreshments at a *café-chantant* or restaurant. In India we have nothing of even an approximately similar kind as a means of recreation for the people. I think the Chinese are, perhaps, the most conservative people in the world ; they adhere tenaciously to their ancient habits and costumes, and although many of them in this place live under the protection and influence of Europeans, this appears to have made no impression on them as far as their habits go. I failed to notice a Chinaman dressed wholly or partly in European costume ; even those who have been converted to Christianity retain their beloved pigtail and original costume. Time alone can tell for what further period these people will cling to their old-fashioned habits and ways, notwithstanding the all-pervading European influence of their surroundings.

The Chinese language appears to possess a number of variants ; the dialects differ to such an extent that people living in one part of the country find it difficult or impossible to understand those from another ; for instance, great divergence is noticeable between the dialects spoken in Canton, Shanghai, and Pekin. The "pidgin" English indulged in by some Chinese is very droll, and to make themselves understood even the Europeans are obliged to adopt it. A common expression is, "You savvey" : the Sikh policemen make free use of it. When travelling from one province to another, the servants of Europeans are obliged to fall back on "pidgin" English among themselves as a means of making themselves understood, so great is the complexity of dialects.

Shanghai rejoices in no less than seven different post offices—viz. English, Russian, French, German, American, Chinese, and Japanese. People of these nationalities despatch and procure their letters, etc., through their respective post offices, and these deal with the mail matter of their own countries only. The reason for all this complication is a disbelief in the efficiency of the Imperial Chinese Postal Department. We intended to remain for not more than two

or three days, and then leave for North China and Pekin; but as only small cargo boats were available, and their dates of departure uncertain, we were obliged to stay six days.

A most interesting day was spent in visiting the Jesuit Orphanage and convent at Zikawei, about five miles out of Shanghai, in Chinese territory. The convent and orphanage, founded by some missionaries about two hundred years ago, is now a most thriving institution. The priests, who have adopted the Chinese costume, even to the queue, showed me all about the place. The boys are all Chinese Catholics; they study their own language, and are taught wood-carving, painting, and sculpture. Some of the boys were very busy making a two-storied house, which is to be most lavishly carved and decorated, outside and inside, for the King of the Belgians; it is to be erected in the Royal Park at Laeken, near Brussels, after being sent there in parts. The girl pupils are taught lace-making and embroidery. In one room we saw a number of tiny babies who had been rescued from the streets, it being the practice of the poor Chinese to abandon their offspring sometimes when they cannot afford to keep them.

A great library is attached to the convent ; it contains several thousand volumes, in the European and Chinese languages, relating to the religions and literature of the Far East. I also saw the famous observatory near by, which is managed by the Roman Catholic priests. It possesses a full complement of scientific instruments, and makes meteorological observations for the benefit of the inhabitants, and despatches signals to ships, miles away, when they are likely to experience bad weather.

On our return we saw the outside of the Imperial Chinese College, a handsome pile of buildings. The college was founded a short time ago. Its teaching staff includes three European professors, and, among other things, the boys learn English and French. Upon interrogating the Chinese pupils, we got little satisfaction ; they did not impress me by their intelligence, and our questions were usually answered by a blank stare. The boy's long, unsportsmanlike garments did not lend themselves to English games, and to see the boys playing these was a funny sight.

On the last day of our stay we saw a great cricket-match, which I was told lasted for three days—between Hong-Kong and a local team ; there was a

large crowd of Europeans present, who displayed much interest in the match. After dinner we witnessed a very good variety performance by the Shanghai amateurs at a pretty little theatre called the "Lyceum," and then embarked on a small steamer named the *King-Sing*, for Tien-Tsin. The steamer was only of about two thousand tons burthen, and sailed early the following morning. Besides ourselves, there were not more than half-a-dozen passengers; indeed, there was not room for more owing to the smallness of the boat. The dining-room had accommodation for ten or twelve persons only. The passengers included representatives of many countries; for instance, there was an Englishman, an American, a Russian, and a Japanese on board.

The first two days of the voyage were smooth and pleasant; but when nearing Chifoo (one of the Treaty Ports of North China) the sea became rough, and a high wind began to blow. This made us all uncomfortable; the boat rolled and pitched to such an extent as to make sleep an impossibility. Early next morning we anchored off Chifoo, where we found the cold severe and a high wind still blowing. The sea being too rough for disembarkation in the usual way—the vessel being a cargo boat only, and

having no special appliances for that purpose—we had to make our way ashore in a small boat as best we could.

We spent the night in a clean and not uncomfortable hotel facing the sea. There was nothing of interest to see at Chifoo ; the place seemed to be used chiefly as a summer resort for the Europeans of North China. The European population of the place did not exceed about five hundred. The following day being calm, we left Chifoo at ten in the morning ; the biting wind rendered it impossible to remain on deck, and we were thus obliged to stay in our cabins and endeavour to get warm. Next morning saw us at Tangku Bar, but no means of getting ashore presented themselves. At noon, the medical inspection being over, a steam launch was procured with great difficulty, in which we hoped to go ashore.

On going aboard, however, we found that it was the intention of the steam-launch people to make a circuit of the harbour (an operation of several hours' duration), in order to pick up more passengers ; but, having no desire for such an experience, I hired the whole launch, and so got ashore in about two hours. On landing, we were

disappointed to find that the last train for Tien-Tsin had departed, and as the hotel accommodation was indifferent, I decided to take a special, which did the trip in an hour's time. We put up at the Astor House Hotel, which was exceedingly comfortable and well arranged.

Next day I went about the place sight-seeing. There are some good streets in Tien-Tsin, and it has the largest foreign settlement in China, with the exception of Shanghai. There are eight foreign settlements there, *viz.* English, Russian, German, French, Austrian, Italian, American, and Japanese. Of these nations, six maintain troops, numbering from five hundred to two thousand in the place. The German probably keep up the largest force. It was indeed a curious and unique sight to see the soldiers of all the nations mentioned walking about ; and the contrast between them was most marked. There we saw Germans in their drab-coloured khaki uniforms side by side with stumpy Japanese, who bore such a resemblance to our Ghurkas ; there also we saw Sikhs (of which there are three or four companies) walking about as if the place belonged to them.

During our drive I stopped in front of the German barracks, and with the assistance of my

Indian doctor, who speaks German, got permission to visit them. A sergeant took us about and showed us the stables and quarters of the cavalry, and afterwards the barracks of the Infantry, which formerly was the Imperial Chinese College. The men's dormitories, dining and reading rooms were well kept and clean. Upon asking the pay the soldiers received, we were told that on foreign service they each got sixty marks a month. The uniforms of the German troops, in that part of the world, is made of a greenish khaki stuff; it looks smart and workmanlike. The German garrison at Tien-Tsin appears to consist of a regiment of infantry, one of cavalry, and a battery of artillery.

We left Tien-Tsin by the mail at two o'clock. The country we traversed during our journey by train was barren and not beautiful; it greatly resembled the plains of Northern India. The train, a quick and comfortable one, reached Pekin at 6.30. The railway system of Northern China is now owned by the Chinese Government, but is managed by Englishmen in the Chinese service. The French have made a railway from Pekin to Hankow, and this they manage themselves. The railways in China were built much against the wishes of the

people and Government, who feared they would bring ill-fortune; nowadays, however, the conservative Dowager-Empress and the Court make use of them when necessary. On such occasions the line and stations are cleared of all traffic and outsiders.

On reaching the capital, we went off in 'rickshaws; a crowd of howling and fighting coolies surrounded us, each eager that we would engage his particular 'rickshaw, and, to clear a way for us, the German manager of the *Hôtel du Nord* was obliged to make free use of a whip. The hotel is nothing but an ordinary Chinese house, badly situated in the middle of the Tartar city, and surrounded by lanes possessing an evil odour; the rooms, however, were not bad.

The morning succeeding our arrival, we went out in 'rickshaws to see a portion of the city. Pekin should be called the "City of Chaos and Evil Odours." There are four distinct cities enclosed by high walls: the Chinese city, the Tartar city, the Imperial city, and the Forbidden city, the latter being the residence of the Court. There is another high wall outside which encircles all these cities, and which is about fifteen miles in circumference. There are

HIS HIGHNESS AND RANI SAHIBA IN PEKIN.



watch-towers every half mile or so, and the walls are massive in appearance and very wide at the top. Legation Street (a fine well-kept road) comprises all the different Legations, each of which has its own guard of soldiers, generally about two hundred or three hundred men. After the recent trouble, it is unlikely that the Legations will trust the Chinese to protect them; hence the separate guards. Each Legation has a big wall around it, and some have guns mounted in position. The British Legation (where I went to call on Sir Ernest Satow) belonged to a Chinese prince; it is an elegant place. There are two handsome Chinese pavilions, in which the Minister resides. The Russians, Austrians, Italians, and French are building large stone houses in the European style; at present they are accommodated in Chinese houses.

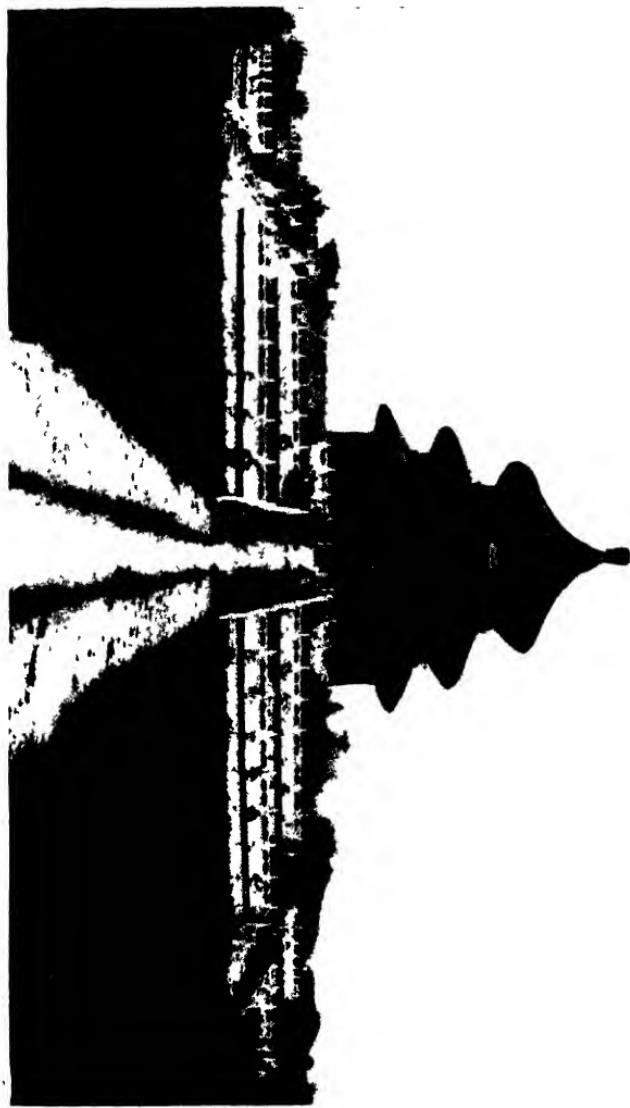
The first morning I went through the Tartar city. The streets are in a shocking condition. Of course, there are no carriages, and well-to-do people go about in pretty sedan chairs carried by some six bearers, well dressed. The abominable smells and the prevailing dirt compelled me to hold a perfumed handkerchief to my nose the whole time. The British Minister kindly lent me two of his State sedan

chairs to take us about. The street scenes were very curious. Here and there one saw a picturesque row of Chinese shops and houses with gilded fronts. The modes of locomotion were donkeys and carts: the latter looked most uncomfortable, and must have been trying to their riders over the rough and stony pavements.

Occasionally we came across a wedding procession: all the presents, consisting of pieces of silk, furniture, vases, and household requisites generally, were carried in front of the bride on large trays. Again, we came across a funeral procession: the body of the deceased was carried in an elaborately decorated palanquin, followed and escorted by a number of the dead person's friends. The solemnity of the function was greatly marred by the corpse-bearers eating apples en route to the burial-place. Women also participated in the procession, and their weird cries and wailing were very distressing.

During the afternoon I visited the famous "Temple of Heaven," which, like every important building in China, is enclosed by a high wall. Inside and out the temple is very handsomely decorated in coloured wood. It is to this temple

THE TEMPLE OF HEAVEN.



that the Emperor goes to pray on certain days, to implore Heaven to intercede on his behalf and to avert calamities. On such occasions he fasts all night, and in the morning prays at the altar, where sheep and oxen are sacrificed. On asking the keeper of the temple if the Emperor had prayed there when the trouble arose in 1900, at the time the allied troops attacked Pekin, I was informed, in reply, that as soon as the troops appeared in the neighbourhood the Emperor took refuge in immediate flight.

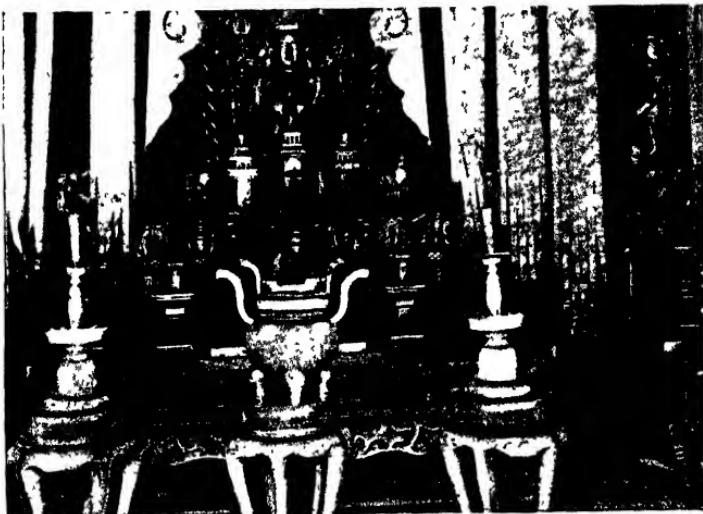
In the enclosure were a number of other temples, as well as a huge marble pavilion, which was used for sacrifices ; the latter had no roof. The temple showed every sign of neglect ; grass was growing even on its steps, and bushes were all about the place. It struck me as being curious that, while the people worshipped Buddha, the Emperor worshipped Heaven only, and did not follow any particular creed. The Chinese believe in Buddha : their moral code they have got from the great reformer Confucius ; and ancestor worship also forms a strong point in their religion. Distances in Pekin being very great, and the methods of conveyance very slow, after seeing the temples it was time to return home.

The Hôtel du Nord being intolerable in the matter of bad smells, I decided to make a change of residence, and accordingly went to the Grand Hotel, where the smells were not quite so vile. The next morning I visited the Lama Temple, and this itself was worth a visit to Pekin. There are a number of other temples in connection with the great one, some of which contained huge images of Buddha in different forms and incarnations ; the walls and the ceilings were most elaborately decorated. One image of Buddha is over sixty feet high, and, to get a better view of this interesting statue, we climbed to a gallery, from which we got a fine sight of its head. Tradition says that one piece of wood only was used in the making of this enormous statue.

The walls of the temples were covered with Sanscrit inscriptions and pictures of mythological subjects. The bronzes and ornaments of jade cloisonné were simply superb. The priests were a greedy lot, and pestered me for presents wherever I went ; they were all dressed in yellow robes. It was my good fortune to be present at the time morning prayers were in progress. At certain stages of the prayers the priests joined their hands as if in



THE ENTRANCE TO THE LAMA TEMPLE.



ALTAR IN THE LAMA TEMPLE.

[Facing p. 34]

supplication, and at intervals clapped them. The priests squatted on the floor and chanted their hymns in a sonorous voice, which reminded me of the tone adopted by the Hindu priests in India. The whole ceremony possessed a good deal of similarity to the performance of our Hindu ritual.

The Temple of Confucius next had our attention ; it contained nothing of striking interest, and is indeed more of a memorial erected to the memory of a great sage and reformer, as are all others dedicated to him, than a place of worship. After lunch at the hotel I again went exploring, in the company of Mr. Jones, an excellent Chinese scholar, of the British Legation, who took me all about the Imperial city. Notwithstanding its grand name, the Imperial city is no better than the one we saw during the previous morning. We went up the great drum tower, whence we had a fine view of Pekin, and got a better general idea of the place than was possible by other means. Two of the gates of the forbidden city or palace enclosure were visible, as was a part of the Imperial landscape garden and some pavilions.

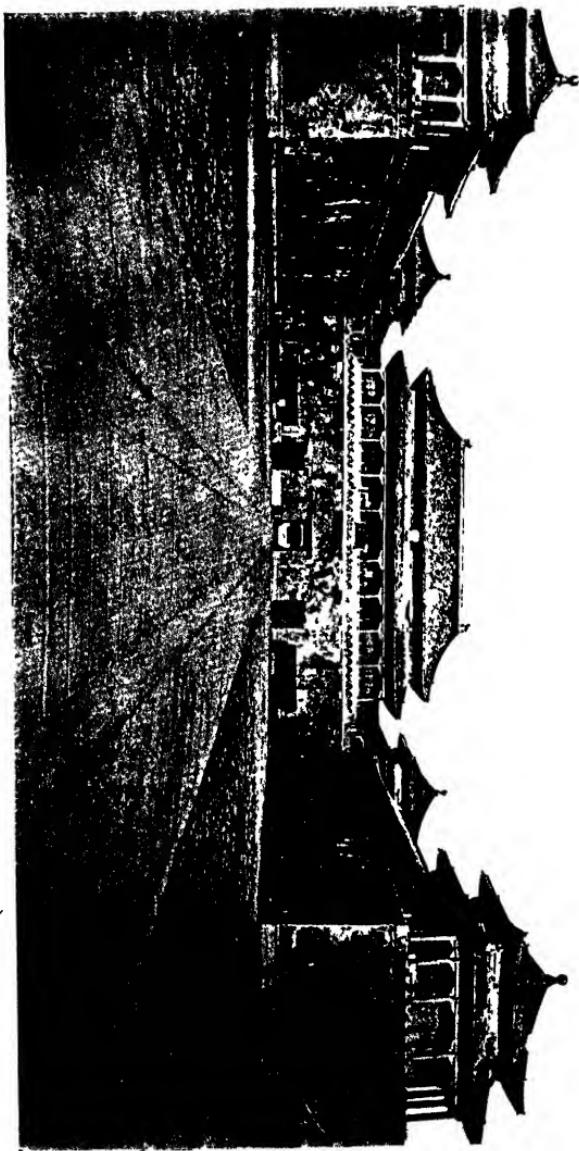
On leaving the tower, I passed in front of some of the State offices, among which I noticed the

Board of Finance, the Board of Rights, and the Office of Justice, etc. In all these places desolation and chaos reigned supreme; dirty stragglers and innumerable pariah dogs of uninviting appearance overran these offices. Dogs seem to thrive in Pekin, for wherever one went they appeared in large numbers.

The same night I dined at the British Legation, and was greatly interested to hear details of the Imperial Court and the Chinese generally. I was pleased to meet my friend Colonel Bower, who was then commanding the British Legation guard.

Sir Ernest Satow is evidently the right man in the right place in China; his powers as a diplomat of the first kind are well known and recognised. To cope with the political situation in China—a hot-bed of international rivalries—and to meet the constantly recurring international “incidents,” requires a man of the highest ability and tact: all these qualities seem to be combined in Sir Ernest, who immediately gave one the impression of strength and of having a thorough grasp of affairs.

The small amount of insight into politics I was able to gain during my short stay gave me the idea that the Russians hold a dominating position



THE ENTRANCE TO THE FORBIDDEN CITY, PEKIN (IMPERIAL PALACE).

in the situation; the British and the Japanese, however, form a strong combination, which acts as an effectual check on the "Great Bear of the North." It was brought home to me, also, that, of all the European Powers, the Chinese dreaded the idea of the Russians as their nearest neighbour most; and the oddest thing of all to my mind was the ever-present foreign soldier of many nationalities and the conspicuous absence of the soldier of the country. It seemed almost as if the foreigners were already in possession of the country, and the appearance of the very few Chinese soldiers did not impress me with an exalted opinion of their apparent soldierly qualities.

Notwithstanding all its glaring shortcomings, the Chinese capital has something attractive about it, and the majesty of age was everywhere apparent. I was given much food for reflection on seeing, on the one hand, all the evidence of ancient habits and civilisation, and on the other to observe the soldiers of the different foreign Powers at their up-to-date drill. The incongruity of the spectacle would, if the matter were not such a serious one, be laughable; but I can easily conceive that when the inevitable struggle takes place, it will not be

a laughing matter for the Chinese or any of the others concerned. But at the time I visited the place, things had more of the appearance of a comic opera than anything else I can think of, this idea being forced on one by seeing the soldiers of diverse foreign nations, in their different accoutrements, drilling as if they meant real business, and by noticing the crowd of Chinese onlookers, who, with imbecile grins, and surrounded by the evidence of their own incapacity and apathy, looked on at the workmanlike efforts of the foreigners, whose energy the Chinese evidently considered a horrid waste of time.

The last morning of my stay I devoted to wandering about the different Legation grounds, and taking note of all I saw. The barracks of the Italian marines, and their wireless telegraph installation, which they use for communication with their war-ships at Tongku, interested me greatly. It seemed appropriate that the Italians should have the first wireless installation, seeing that it was the now famous Italian Marconi who brought the system to its present state of perfection.

Subsequently I peeped into the barracks of the American soldiers, and there I was met in



HAIMEN GATE, PEKIN.

[Facing p. 38.]

the most friendly manner by all hands. No permission from the commanding officer seemed to be necessary before I was allowed to enter; on the contrary, on expressing a wish to see the place, the officer of the guard said, "Go right ahead and see all you want to." We promptly availed ourselves of this cordial invitation, and were fortunate in arriving just in time to see the change of guards, which was effected by bugle call in place of the more usual words of command. The men were tidy in appearance, and performed their movements with precision and obvious skill; they seemed to be a merry lot, and, off duty, were constantly joking and larking with one another. I think the American idea of discipline differs from others; and there seemed to be just something about the Americans which engendered the suspicion that their soldiers were uniformed civilians.

After breakfast at the hotel we left Pekin by the two o'clock train for Tien-Tsin, and, although the place had interested me greatly, I was not sorry to depart. It was a disappointment that I had been unable to see the Emperor and the Dowager Empress—not that I had an erroneous idea as to his ability as a sovereign, but because I would

have found it most interesting to have seen a ruler whose Court and surroundings differed in every way from the sovereigns who had done me the honour of receiving me in Europe.

Sir Ernest Satow told me that to procure an audience of the Emperor was not unattended with difficulty, as the Court was then staying at the summer palace, some distance away. The ways of this Oriental Court are, however, very peculiar, and it is not impossible that the British Minister did not wish to place himself or his Government under a supposed obligation to the Chinese Government, who, had the Emperor received me, would think they were conferring a great honour, and would probably have expected something in the way of a substantial political consideration in return. The Empress of China is in reality the supreme authority in that country, and the Emperor, although ostensibly ruler, is so in name only. A few years ago the Emperor, with the assistance of some advanced advisers, desired to make certain reforms in the administration of the Empire's business. The conservative party, backed up by the Dowager Empress, did not, however, approve, and therefore caused the weak and irresolute Emperor to abdicate in her



THE IMPERIAL SUMMER PALACE.



THE IMPERIAL THRONE IN THE FORBIDDEN CITY.

[Facing p. 40.]

favour. From that time the Dowager Empress has held indisputable sway, and it was no doubt at her instigation that the anti-foreign trouble arose in 1900.

After spending a night at Tien-Tsin, I went to see the house of the Viceroy of the province of Chi-Li ; his name is Yuanshikhai. He is about the only statesman in China who realises the grave condition of his country, and who has a real desire to improve the economic and political aspect of affairs there, while at the same time preserving his position and avoiding offence to the conservative susceptibilities of the Dowager-Empress. This Viceroy wields much power, and his position borders on that of royalty.

In China there are no less than eighteen provinces, and to the head of each a Viceroy—who is not a paid official—is appointed. The Viceroy reserves to himself a certain portion of the revenues as his remuneration, and is under obligation to maintain a certain number of troops for the service of the Imperial Government whenever they may be required. The amount of a Viceroy's income can be pretty fairly gauged by the number of men they retain ; for instance, the Viceroy Yuanshikhai keeps

up a force of fifty thousand men, and these are said to be the best soldiers in the Chinese Empire. They have been trained by German officers, and at present Captain Menzies, an Englishman, is the Viceroy's military adviser; it was this officer who kindly showed me about the Viceroy's "Yamen," or official residence. We first went through two large quadrangles. At the entrance to the first there were a large number of elaborate sedan chairs waiting for the Mandarins, and ponies were saddled and ready for retainers. Several soldiers were also present at the different gates, and there was a continuous going and coming of high officials, whose lovely silk garments made them quite conspicuous, as also did the peacock feathers with which their hats were adorned.

The scene was distinctly Oriental in appearance, and bore some resemblance to a few of the old palaces in India; nevertheless, it had a distinctive character of its own, and could not be compared with anything of the kind elsewhere. A large, lofty reception-room full of chandeliers was shown to me, in which were a number of high officials, who, on meeting, after the Chinese fashion, bowed very low and shook their own hands; they were waiting for

a grand council meeting (at which the Viceroy was to preside) to begin. A hint from the English officer who accompanied me, to the effect that foreigners were not always welcome on such occasions, caused me to curtail my stay in this very interesting room.

Next I visited the Viceroy's son, a young man of about eighteen, who spoke English rather well. He received me in a small drawing-room furnished after the European fashion, and I found the visit a pleasant one.

On arriving at the station, I was met by a deputation of Sikhs, who presented an address. These men had all gone to China in connection with the Indian garrison there, in one capacity or another, and they were anxious to build a Sikh temple, as they had no place of worship. I was asked for a donation towards the fulfilment of their desire, to which request I acceded.

Shanhaikwan was our next stopping-place, for which we left Tien-Tsin at ten a.m. The weather was bitterly cold and changeable to a degree: a normal spell would almost certainly be followed by a sudden change of temperature, due to the icy cold wind which blows from Siberia.

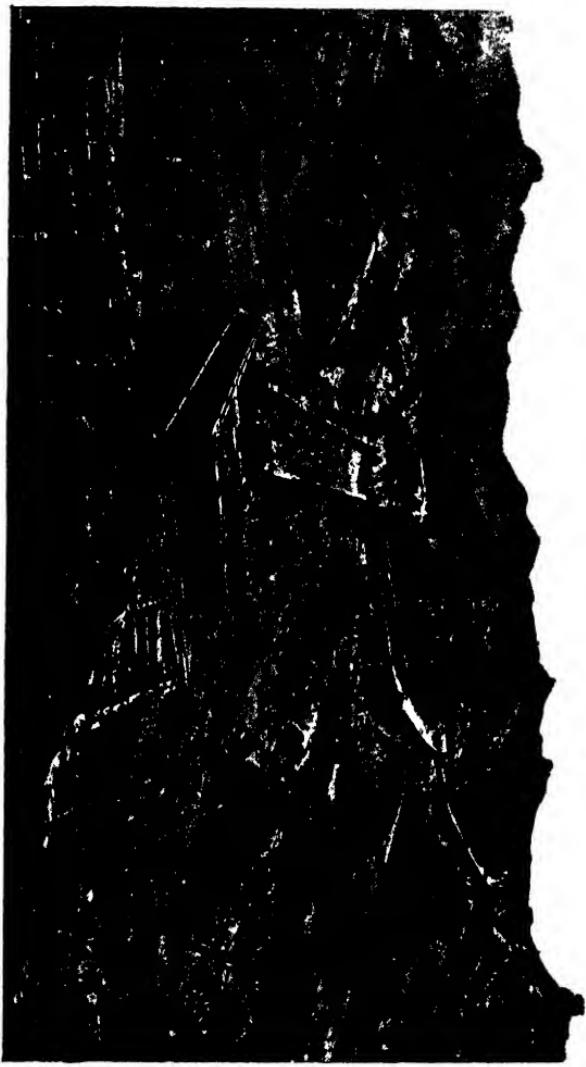
Shanhaikwan was reached in the evening, and an agreeable surprise, in the shape of a decent hotel, awaited us. The hotel was run by an Englishman, who provided excellent food, etc.

The following morning was so bitterly cold that anything in the way of sightseeing was quite impossible, so we did not venture out.

At Shanhaikwan there are some foreign troops ; the Germans, French, Japanese, and Russians have each two companies of soldiers stationed there, and a portion of the 30th Punjab Infantry from India was in evidence. Some of the native officers of the latter regiment came to see me ; one of them turned out to be a subject of mine from the village of Dhilwan. The opinions of these officers as to the quality of the foreign troops they were quartered near were very entertaining, and I derived considerable amusement from the visit. The number and strength of the foreign Powers represented in different parts of China astonished these Indian officers, who, up to the time of their arrival in China, were unaware of the existence of most of these great Powers. The Indian officers had a poor opinion of the Russians, but of the Japanese they spoke highly, and they

THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA.

[Facing p. 44.



seemed to be on the best of terms with them.

Later in the day a Russian officer called on me; he was a most clever man, and spoke nearly all the European languages, as well as Persian, with fluency and facility. In his company I went out and inspected a portion of the famous wall of China, which was built about two thousand years ago, as a means of protection against the Tartar invaders. It is said to be two thousand miles long, and it appeared to be about fifty feet high, while in some places its width, at its top, is sufficient to enable a carriage to be driven on it. There being a number of Mohammedans in China, I was curious to see one of their mosques, and was fortunate enough to get a chance after my inspection of the Great Wall. I was disappointed to find that the so-called mosque was no more or less than an ordinary Chinese house with a few Arabic inscriptions on the walls indoors. The officiating Mullah, on being asked to read some passages from the Koran, was almost unable to do so, and in common with other Chinese Mohammedans, he was not distinguishable from the mass of the people. The Mullah showed me the Imperial Government permit by virtue of which the Mahomedans were

allowed to worship after their own fashion. I inquired why the pigtail was worn by the Mahomedans in China, and was informed that it was done out of deference to the custom of the State religion and the habit of the people of the country. In China the cutting of a pigtail is looked on with the utmost condemnation ; it is indeed a penal offence.

From the mosque, I proceeded to a fort occupied by some Cossacks. The officers (who received me with the courtesy for which Russian officers are well known) told me that they were originally sent there for a couple of months only ; but three years had passed since then, and there seemed no probability of their being relieved.

Early the next day we departed from Shanhikwan, and, as there was no restaurant car attached to the train, we had to make shift for breakfast as best we could by having a scratch meal prepared in my saloon. Apart from some low hills in the distance, the country we passed through was quite flat. The population in that part of the world seemed to be very dense, and the villages almost touched one another, they were so close together. The houses were mostly of stone

or brick, but some belonging to the poor people were made of mud. The peasantry in those parts possessed a much better physique than those of the south, and they appeared to be better clad and fed. I noticed that all the carts were pulled by donkeys, as also were, in some places, the ploughs. Pork seemed to be the staple meat food of the inhabitants, but they were not above eating an ox which had died from sickness or other causes; otherwise the Chinese do not eat beef, as they find the animal too valuable to be slaughtered for food only.

Newchwang was reached at seven in the evening; but, after alighting from the train, we were obliged to cross a river in a steam launch, and this occupied twenty minutes. An indifferent sort of hotel was the only accommodation available. The people of that part of China are known as Manchus, and it is from them that the present Imperial dynasty sprang.

The occupation of Manchuria by the Russians was engaging the serious attention of some of the European Powers, as well as Japan, the reason being that numerous promises had been made by the Russians, from time to time, to

evacuate the place ; but these, on one excuse or another, had remained unfulfilled. In the first place they brought troops for the ostensible purpose of suppressing the so-called "Boxer" rising ; then they remained on the excuse of protecting their Manchurian railway ; subsequently, when further protests were made, other reasons were put forward for continuing the occupation. It seemed probable that Russia would never willingly evacuate Manchuria, owing to her great interests in that country, and owing to the enormous expense she has sustained for building the railway. Russia then maintained a force of about a hundred thousand men in Manchuria, which has since been largely added to.

The Government of the country was nominally in the hands of the Chinese Viceroy ; but in reality the latter was under the thumb of the Czar and his Viceroy Alexieff, who ruled with a rod of iron—so much so that a rumour obtained credence lately to the effect that the Russian General at Mukden (the capital of Manchuria) put the Chinese Viceroy in prison for daring to do a certain thing contrary to his wishes.

The province of Manchuria is rich in mineral wealth, and possesses some gold and other mines ;

it is also one of the most fertile places in China, and under the Russians or Japanese will doubtless develop greatly.

Leaving Newchwang during the afternoon, we again crossed the river in a launch, and for the first time saw the Russian Eastern Chinese Railway. After about an hour's run we alighted, and had the interesting experience of seeing the Trans-Siberian train arrive from Europe. The latter railway was then open its whole length, and, in Europe connects with the old lines at Moscow, from Paris, Berlin, Vienna, and St. Petersburg. It is said to be the longest line in the world, and was built entirely by Russian capital and labour—a performance of a marvellous character, and one of which the Russians have reason to be proud. The railway, of course, vastly increases the Russian prestige and power in the East, as by its means she can pour enormous numbers of troops there in the shortest possible time. Whereas formerly the journey from London or Paris took thirty-five to forty days by steamer to China or Japan, by means of this wonderful railway passengers and mails were being delivered in eighteen to twenty days. This comparison strikingly illustrates the tremendous value

of the railway to Russia from the strategical point of view as well as for the economical conveyance of passengers, goods and mails.

The train itself was splendidly equipped with every imaginable luxury, even to a piano. Well-furnished sleeping and dining cars were attached, and the dinner, by the way, reminded one forcibly of that procurable in a first-class restaurant in Europe. Early next morning we arrived at Dalny, the terminus of this gigantic railway, and were at last in Russian China. The secretary to the Governor of Dalny received me at the station, whence we drove in a Russian "droshki" or carriage to the hotel. These droshkis were in common use in Dalny, and all had Russian coachmen. The capacity of the droshki to negotiate bad or uneven roads, or no roads at all, has to be experienced to be credited.

The hotel we put up at was fairly good. The food supplied, although essentially Russian, was not bad; but there, as at all other places held by Russia, the value of ordinary water was at a premium. The use of a bath was not clearly understood, and with difficulty I succeeded in getting one only during my three days' stay. Jugs of hot



DALNY HOTEL.



A STREET IN DALNY.

[Facing p. 50.

water were looked on as luxuries, and were charged as extras in the bill !

Three years ago the territory we were then in was acquired from China, and in that short time the progress made was really wonderful. Tremendous activity prevailed everywhere : fine streets lined with handsome stone buildings had sprung up, and miles of roads, public buildings, etc., were under construction all about the place. The houses of the Government servants were substantial, good-looking villas, which bear a striking contrast to those provided for the use of our Anglo-Indian beaureaucracy.

M. Sakharoff, the Governor, came to see me, and invited me to lunch with him at one o'clock, or, as it is called there, dinner. I did not venture to drink the favourite Russian spirit vodka ; but I enjoyed all the other things, cooked in the Russian style, which were set before me. The governor, of course, spoke French, so we got on very well together. I found him very polite and hospitable, as indeed were all the Russian people with whom I came in contact. I am doubtful, however, from what I have been told, if they are as pleasant to deal with when one has official business to transact with them.

The governor's residence was a new, well-appointed villa, finished recently. After lunch he was good enough to take me for a drive, during which he showed me the Russian warships (among the biggest in the world) lying a few miles off. The battleships and cruisers numbered about twenty, and there were a large number of smaller vessels, torpedo boats, etc., in addition. These vessels, as well as about 200,000 men, were under the command of Admiral Alexieff, who was recently appointed the Czar's Viceroy of the Far East. He is said to be one of Russia's foremost statesmen; at the time of my visit the Admiral was directing the naval manœuvres, so I had no opportunity of meeting him. It is fairly evident that all these warships, troops, etc., were intended to fight Japan, and this conflict will decide if the latter Power or Russia is to be supreme in the Far East.

My intention was to have left on October 28 for Japan, but there was a great muddle about the date of the steamer's departure, and I found it almost impossible to obtain definite information on this point. However, I finally discovered that the steamer sailed on Saturdays only, and this was a great

disappointment to me, as I feared the delay would prevent me from being present at the Emperor of Japan's birthday festivities at Tokio on November 3, which I had been looking forward to. It seemed odd that in China one could never get really reliable and definite information on any subject.

Having two additional days at my disposal, I availed myself of the opportunity, and went to see Port Arthur (in company with the Governor's aide-de-camp), which place we reached in about three hours. The magnificent new hotel was not completed when we arrived; but as the Commissioner of Police very kindly placed his house at our disposal for my short stay, and as police officers and men were in attendance, we lacked for nothing.

The military element in Port Arthur predominated, of course: everywhere one saw officers in smart uniforms (which they wear on all occasions); Cossacks in Astrakhan caps; troops marching about; cavalry galloping by—all was bustle and military activity. The garrison of Port Arthur amounted to about 50,000 men, who, although strong and workmanlike, were not clean in appearance, and these were continually being trained in landing exercises, resisting sham attacks by the fleet, etc., etc.

About a fortnight before my arrival a great sham fight took place, in which 75,000 men and all the warships took part. Nearly all the surrounding hills were strongly fortified, and some very heavy ordnance was mounted on them, hundreds of long-range guns of recent patterns being in position. It was not permitted that outsiders should make close inspection of the fortifications; but the Russian officer who accompanied me took me up a hill, from which an excellent idea of the defensive works generally was obtained. All this has been evolved from a little strip of land which the Russians got on ninety-nine years' lease of occupation, merely to provide a little shelter for their ships and as a coaling station! I was requested not to stay too long a time near the forts, and to be careful not to take snapshots of what I saw!

I got an outside view of the Viceroy's palace, and listened for a time to a military band which was playing in a public garden, where the fashion and beauty of Port Arthur were promenading. After an excellent dinner in a Russian restaurant, I saw a circus performance by a Russian troupe, and this I found better than anything of its kind I had ever seen in India. Subsequently I went to

a *café-chantant*, which was full of Russian officers in full uniform with swords, who were nearly all in the company of women of a certain class who had accompanied them from European Russia. If an English officer in uniform was seen in public in such company, he would be immediately dismissed; Russian ideas of propriety differ, however.

Late hours at Port Arthur, as in all other Russian places, was the fashion; people seemed to sit up all night enjoying themselves, and got up at a correspondingly late hour the following day, thus making it impossible to get anything done or to see any one before midday. The day after I returned to Dalny, and as Port Arthur had fatigued me greatly, I did not go out all day.

The language difficulty we found to be a real one, and we had the utmost trouble in making ourselves understood, particularly by the servants. Some of the officers and those of the better class occasionally spoke French, German, or English.

At noon on October 31 we embarked on the s.s. *Argaon* of the Russian line of the Chinese Eastern Railway. This boat turned out to be a comfortable and well-appointed little vessel of about two thousand tons; the dining and smoking rooms

were commodious and comfortable. The officers were all Russians, but the passengers seemed to be of all nationalities. We were fortunate in having lovely weather, and two days out we passed some low rocky islands belonging to Korea.

III

JAPAN

ON November 2 the land of Japan was sighted, and at noon we anchored in the beautiful harbour of Nagasaki. My first impressions of Japan were indeed favourable. The harbour was one of the prettiest I had ever seen; hills surrounded it on three sides, all of which were well wooded and pleasantly green. The weather, too, was delightful, and reminded one of the Punjab in November. Ships of all nations were lying in the harbour. The whole scene, both as regards surroundings and climate, formed a vivid contrast to that we had been accustomed to for the past few weeks in North China, and we found the change very acceptable.

Soon after the formality of a medical inspection had been concluded, we went ashore and put up at the Nagasaki Hotel, which we found in all respects a desirable place to live in. The day following our

arrival was the Emperor of Japan's birthday ; in honour of this all the ships in the harbour were bedecked with bunting, and the warships fired salutes. In company with Mr. Layard, the British Consul, I went to call on the Governor at his official residence, to present my congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of his Sovereign's birthday.

This official was greatly perplexed as to the proper manner in which to receive me, and was profuse in his apologies because of his not having gone to see me first : preparations in connection with the Emperor's birthday festivities had prevented him ; but notwithstanding this, he insisted on adhering to the strict formality usual in such cases. The difficulty was got over in a rather novel manner by my being asked by the Governor's secretary to consider one of his sitting rooms as my own in which he would come and pay the customary call of formality ; this was done, and so the matter ended satisfactorily.

The Governor was attired in a gorgeous uniform, the breast of which was covered with decorations. His nervousness was very marked ; indeed, he became so overcome that he forgot his English (which ordinarily he spoke well), and was obliged to appeal

to the British Consul to act as interpreter! The exchange of a few complimentary phrases terminated the interview, and the Governor departed. The Consul asked me to say nothing about the Emperor's birthday on the occasion of the Governor's pretended visit to me, but to reserve a reference to it until I paid the return visit a few minutes later. This advice was adopted by me, and we all drank the Emperor's health shortly afterwards in extra sweet champagne.

Lunch at the hotel being over, we left immediately after, by train, for Shimonoseki, en route to Kobe and Yokohama. The Governor and some other officials went to the station to see me off. The railway by which we travelled was of narrow gauge, as all railways are in Japan; the carriages had seats running parallel their whole length, and were fairly comfortable. Naturally, having heard so much of Japan, everything we saw was full of interest to me, and I was busy the whole time making mental notes and comparisons. I found considerable resemblance in the country we passed through to some parts of Italy and France, and every now and again our train skirted the sea-shore. The villages were most picturesque, and there seemed

to be very little interval between them, thus showing the country to be thickly populated. I noticed that all the houses in the villages, as well as the station buildings, were constructed of wood. It was most interesting, at the large stations we stopped at, to watch the crowd coming and going, and to notice the peculiar noise they made as they walked along on their wooden-soled clogs. With the exception of the railway officials, few or none wore anything but the usual Japanese costume, plus a European hat.

At 10 p.m. we reached Moji, where we were met by the British Consul, the mayor of the city, and some police officers. Having arrived at the terminus of the line at the end of the southern island, we were obliged to cross the strait in a ferry-boat to Shimonoseki, where we spent the night in the railway hotel with much satisfaction to ourselves. The hotel management was entirely Japanese, and for real comfort, cleanliness, and good service the hotel is not to be beaten anywhere. Moji is a small, well-maintained provincial town of no special interest.

The following day, after seeing a portion of the town, we resumed our journey by railway, from

which we got a fine view of the famous inland sea of Japan, of which I had heard so much. It struck me as being peculiar that Nature should have made the islands of Japan, and then have made an inland sea, and have dotted it here and there with thousands of islands; but Nature has done things in Japan which she has not done elsewhere!

The scenery continued to be of the most exquisite kind, and our train took us in and out of lovely valleys, and emerged every now and then into view of this enchanting sea. After darkness set in, it became still more attractive, and the moon added quite a sentimental touch to the whole surroundings. I dined and slept in a reserved saloon, and after a comfortable journey reached Kobe the next morning at eight o'clock. Kobe is one of the biggest treaty ports in Japan, and appears to be a thriving and prosperous town. It is prettily situated, surrounded by high hills. The European quarter has some fine streets and modern places of business, as well as hotels.

Leaving Kobe at one o'clock, our train took us through pretty scenery, from which we got a good idea of the real country of Japan, until we

reached Osaka. This place has been termed the "Manchester of Japan," probably because of the numerous manufactories there. That it is essentially a manufacturing town is evident from the large number of chimneys seen about the place, and we were interested to notice a lot of curious-looking advertisements of fantastic design dotted about the fields bordering the railway. This method of advertising has probably been imported from America, where it flourishes.

The ancient capital, Kioto, was our next place of halt; but as I visited it on my return journey, when I had more time at my disposal, I will refrain from giving any description just now. I was agreeably surprised to find at all the principal stations, that the governor, or his first secretary, and an inspector of police, were on the platform to receive me. In each case they handed me their card, on which their name was written in Japanese, and sometimes in English or French as well. Their demeanour was most respectful, and their bows of the most profound kind; in all cases they remained motionless and uncovered until my train was well out of the station. The Japanese even excel the French in politeness. The complete absence of noise

and confusion at the stations was very noticeable features, and in this respect they compared very favourably with what one is accustomed to in India. The arrangements for the supply of food and refreshments to the passengers were excellent ; hawkers went about the platforms selling rice, fish, eggs, bread, etc., which they dispensed in neat little wooden boxes. Sake (the spirit of the country) and beer were also sold, and, in fact, one could purchase a whole meal at an exceedingly low cost.

After a night in the train we reached Yokohama, where I was met by the British Consul, with whom I drove to the newly rebuilt Oriental Palace Hotel. This hotel did not belie its name, as I found it indeed a palace, and certainly the most luxurious caravan-serai of its kind I have ever stayed at east of Suez. Two experienced Frenchmen managed the hotel ; their long residence in that part of the world gave them the control over local conditions essential to success, and we had nothing to find fault with. The cuisine was genuinely Parisian ; our rooms had a charming outlook over the harbour, in which ships of all nations were riding at anchor.

Amidst these delightful but non-Japanese surroundings we passed nine pleasant days. On

November 7 I went to Tokio for a day only, as I desired to see Sir Claude MacDonald. We reached there in less than an hour. After arriving, I immediately called on the British Minister, Sir Claude MacDonald, whose suavity and charming manner instantly put me at my ease, and removed any suspicion of stiffness during our interview. His Excellency was the hero of the great siege of Pekin during 1900, as it was in the enclosure of the British Legation that the foreign Ministers and residents took refuge during that troubled and dangerous time. I am much indebted to Sir Claude for his kind assistance and advice during my stay in Japan.

The British Legation is a commodious double-storied building, and stands opposite the Imperial Palace and grounds. In celebration of King Edward's birthday, Sir Claude and Lady MacDonald gave a garden party that afternoon, to which the *élite* of Yokohama and Tokio was invited. European and Japanese society was amply represented, and for the first time I met some of the leading foreign and Japanese Ministers, as well as a number of the naval and military element of all nations. The Japanese Ministers all wore European frock-coats



Claude Macdonald
TOKIO

SIR CLAUDE MACDONALD, K.C.M.G.

[Facing p. 64.]



and top hats, in which they looked supremely uncomfortable ; the Ministers were extremely polite, but were obviously ill at ease in their adopted Western garb. To get on well with these representatives of Japan, one's linguistic abilities must necessarily be of a high order, for some of them spoke, apart from their own language, nothing but French ; others spoke English, but no French ; others, again, spoke German, but neither English nor French. The reason for this is simple, and lies in the fact that the acquirement of the language spoken depended on the country to which the possessor went for his education or training. The Japanese early adopted the plan of sending their men to certain countries for the acquirement of a subject for which that particular country was famous ; hence the necessity for their men going to different countries arose, thus accounting for the multiplicity of languages heard at the garden party, and, indeed, everywhere one meets Japanese who have studied abroad.

Among some of the notable men with whom I conversed on this occasion were Count Katsura, the Prime Minister ; Baron Komura, Minister of Foreign Affairs ; Viscount Tanaka, Minister of the Imperial Household ; Admiral Togo ; General Oku,

who attended the Delhi Darbar ; and last, but not least, the Grand Master of Ceremonies at the Imperial Court, who plays a predominating part in all the Court functions. The name of the Grand Master of Ceremonies is Baron Sannomiya ; he was particularly obliging and courteous to me, and whenever I required it he was ever ready to render me all assistance possible. The Baron was a past master in Court etiquette, and this, in a country where ceremonious observances are the salt of life, means a great deal.

On this occasion I had the good fortune to meet and be presented to some Japanese ladies. A number of them were arrayed in European costume, while others had the good sense to adhere to their native style of dress, which, I am bound to admit, suited their particular style of beauty much better than the latest creations of Worth or Paquin. European ladies' dress, to be seen at its best, requires a certain kind of figure, a certain carriage, and a certain gait on the part of the wearer, and these things Japanese ladies do not possess.

I observed also that the European foot-gear which some of them had adopted make them walk in an extremely constrained manner ; naturally



BARON SANNOMIYA, GRAND MASTER OF CEREMONIES.

[Facing p. 66.]

Japanese women walk with their toes turned in, and this practice seems to accentuate the clumsiness of their gait when European shoes are worn. The ladies were very shy, and kept much to themselves; when I addressed them the answer was usually a monosyllable, uttered in a very gentle voice, "Oui" or "Yes," accompanied by a little giggle and a bow. Even among themselves there was no familiarity; on the contrary, they were distant and ceremonious in their attitude. When greeted by one of their own country-men, bows were exchanged, always with the hands touching the knees, and these were repeated whenever a remark was made or the usual compliments passed. Shaking of hands is not practised among the Japanese.

An informal dance terminated the proceedings, and after two hours, full of interest and novelty, we took our departure, bidding our host and hostess good-bye, and went by the five o'clock train from Shinbashi, which was crowded with people, among whom were many of the guests from the garden party. The weather had become so chilly that warm overcoats became a necessity.

The temptation to indulge my hobby for shopping the following day proved irresistible,

and there seemed to be every excuse for it, as the shops were crowded with attractive things of local manufacture. There I found lovely ivory carvings ; lacquer work ; cloisonné on gold, silver, and copper ; work inlaid with mother-of-pearl ; silk embroideries ; porcelain, etc., etc. I was told, however, that the best of such things were to be had at Kioto, so I restrained the temptation to buy many articles for the time being, and purchased a moderate quantity only.

Subsequently I paid a visit to the *Oregon*, one of the crack United States cruisers. The officers were very civil, and showed me everything worth seeing. Among the marines I observed a number of muscular negroes, and was told that no matter how competent they might be, they were never promoted to commissioned rank. Such a condition of affairs in a nation which made the supposed "equality of man" a fundamental principle of their constitution makes one tremble for the future. Will the negro always tolerate being told of his equality with the white man at a time when votes are being sought for, and be forever kept out of appointments which he may be able to qualify for, only because God made him black ?



A JAPANESE MAIDEN.

[Facing p. 68.]

Afterwards I went for a short cruise around the harbour, during which I saw a number of warships belonging to England, France, Germany, Austria, and Italy. These interested me greatly.

Being unwell the next day, I did not venture out, but had the pleasure of receiving a return visit from the British Minister.

The 10th was the day of the great race-meeting, to which I went, and had lunch on the race-ground with M. Harmand, the French Minister, the Count de Perigny, and some other Frenchmen. The race-course is beautifully situated, and commands a fine view of the Bay of Tokio and the surrounding hills. The grand-stand was crowded with the *elite* of the European and Japanese society ; the racing, however, was, although fairly good, not up to that one sees at Lucknow or Calcutta. The most coveted prize, the Emperor's Cup, was won by the Count de Perigny and M. Roonen, both Frenchmen, who were joint owners of the winning horse. It was presented to them, in the Emperor's name, by the Baron Sannomiya, to the usual accompaniment of numerous *banzais*, which in English means "Hurra." On my return, I looked in at the United Club—a fine, well-equipped club, probably

the best in the East. I was made a member for the time of my stay in Yokohama.

On the 11th I made an excursion by train to Komakura, where we arrived after an hour's delightful journey through beautiful scenery; the autumn tints on the trees and foliage were strikingly beautiful, and the sight was perfectly glorious. Half an hour's drive in a 'rickshaw brought us to the main temple. The figure of Daibutsu or Buddha was of enormous size, in the open air, so much so that we were able to climb, by means of a ladder, into its interior, where there was a shrine. The figure of bronze, said to be one of the finest works of art in Japan, sits cross-legged, in an attitude of meditation.

Thence we went to see another, but smaller temple, and then proceeded in 'rickshaws to a place called Enoshima, which is a famous summer resort. The place is really an island, joined to the mainland by means of a long wooden bridge. We climbed up a stone pavement and went through a long narrow street, in which were all kinds of stones and shells, made up into useful forms, exposed for sale at trifling prices. A tea-house perched on top of a hill attracted our attention, so



THE DAIBUTSU AT KOMAKURA.

[Facing p. 70.]

we went in and had tea. On entering, we were greeted by the women attendants in the fashion usual in the country, that is by kneeling and touching the ground with their foreheads. Their delightful manners and sweet smiles, coupled with the beauty and peacefulness of the scene, made us quite reluctant to leave for Yokohama. Our return to the latter place was partly performed by electric car and partly by train.

I spent a portion of the 12th in revisiting the attractive shops, from which I found difficulty in keeping away, and during the same night I attended a ball at the hotel, which was a fine sight. The band of the French flagship in harbour supplied the music, and I think there must have been quite five hundred people, of all European nationalities and Americans, present.

The next day was the date fixed for the Empress's chrysanthemum garden party—one of the two great Imperial garden *fêtes* given annually. The other is held in the spring. An invitation for this *fête* reached me in due course, and I was interested to observe that it was written in the Japanese language, with an English translation, to the effect that if it rained on the date appointed, the enter-

tainment would be held the day following ; and if it rained on that day, the party was to be abandoned. The invitation bore the Imperial crest, which consists of a sixteen-petalled chrysanthemum, of a very simple design.

The morning of the *fête* was cloudy ; but fortunately the sky cleared up by noon, and we reached Tokio in time to lunch with Sir Claude and Lady MacDonald, in whose company we proceeded to Asakusa Park. At the entrance gates police and military guards were posted, and we noticed serried rows of carriages and 'rickshaws standing. We were politely requested to leave our overcoats at the door, after which a ten minutes' walk on a gravelled road brought us to a square, where chrysanthemums of all shades of colour and in bewildering variety were exposed. There we saw Japanese Ministers, foreign representatives, military and naval officers of all nationalities, globetrotters bearing letters of introduction from their respective Legations, men of science, literature, etc.

The park, a very extensive place, contained huge trees, lakes with pretty islands, on which pavilions were built, and which were connected to the other portions of the park by means of miniature bridges,

皇帝

皇后兩陛下ノ命ヲ奉シ宮内大臣誠

二敬意ヲ致シ

印度ヲルタラ一王同妃而殿下ヲ

來十三日午後二時赤阪離宮御苑

二於テ催サル、觀菊會二招請ス

明治三十六年十一月七日

大日本國國會議事堂ノ開設式

and many other attractive features. The maple trees, with their deep red yellow and other tints, were then at their best, and presented a lovely spectacle. We had scarcely time to take in all the lovely sights about us before a hush, which was indicative of the Empress's approach, became noticeable. The military bands then struck up the somewhat melancholy Japanese National Anthem, upon which all those wearing hats immediately uncovered: our turbans of course prevented us from showing similar outward respect.

The guests formed themselves into rows, and were asked to remain in their places by the Master of Ceremonies. The eyes of all were turned in the direction of the road by which the Empress was coming, and shortly the procession appeared, headed by the Court Chamberlains in their Court uniforms of European design. After the Chamberlains had passed, the Ladies-in-Waiting appeared, walking two and two; following these came the Empress, walking alone. Her Majesty, who appeared to be not more than five feet high, wore a green velvet dress of European make. She was very solemn in manner, and her face was absolutely expressionless and without a smile as she acknowledged the curtsies

of the ladies and the profound bows of the Ministers and other guests in a somewhat automatic manner. Behind the Empress, the Princesses of the Imperial House walked; they were all dressed in European costumes of bright colours.

The procession, which was followed by all the guests, slowly wound its way to the reception-tent, at one end of which Her Majesty took her place, while on her left the Princesses stood in a row, and behind them the Ladies-in-Waiting. We had places in the front line, in which we stood with the Diplomatic Corps. The Belgian Minister, Baron d'Anethan, and his wife, were to be presented first, he being the "Doyen" or senior member of the Diplomatic Corps. Subsequently Sir Claude MacDonald was presented by the Master of the Ceremonies, and I was in turn presented by the former.

After the Empress had shaken hands with me, the Lady-in-Waiting, who interpreted asked me, on behalf of the Empress, if I liked Japan, and if I found the cold very severe after the great heat of my own country—a question which was often asked of me in Japan. The Empress was astonished when I explained that in some parts of India the



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HHR IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE EMPRESS OF JAPAN

cold is at certain times almost as severe as in Japan. The Empress spoke in an almost inaudible voice, and after a few other remarks had been made and my suite had been presented, I was introduced to the Princesses. One of them, the Princess Nashimoto, is considered to be one of the most beautiful women in the Japanese aristocracy.

A lot of interested attention was exhibited when the Russian Minister was presented. Baron Rosen was said to be one of the cleverest of the foreign Ministers, and having in view the strained relations between his country and Japan, his movements were always attended by a good deal of interest by the others. The Chinese Minister came next. He was followed by a numerous staff, all dressed in their Chinese Court costume, they being the only ones present in anything but European dress. After the foreign naval and military officers, the Japanese Ministers were presented. Their obeisance consisted of a low bow made while their hands were placed on their knees. The Empress did not shake hands with them. This terminated the presentations.

Then came the great feast. It was nothing like an afternoon tea such as one becomes

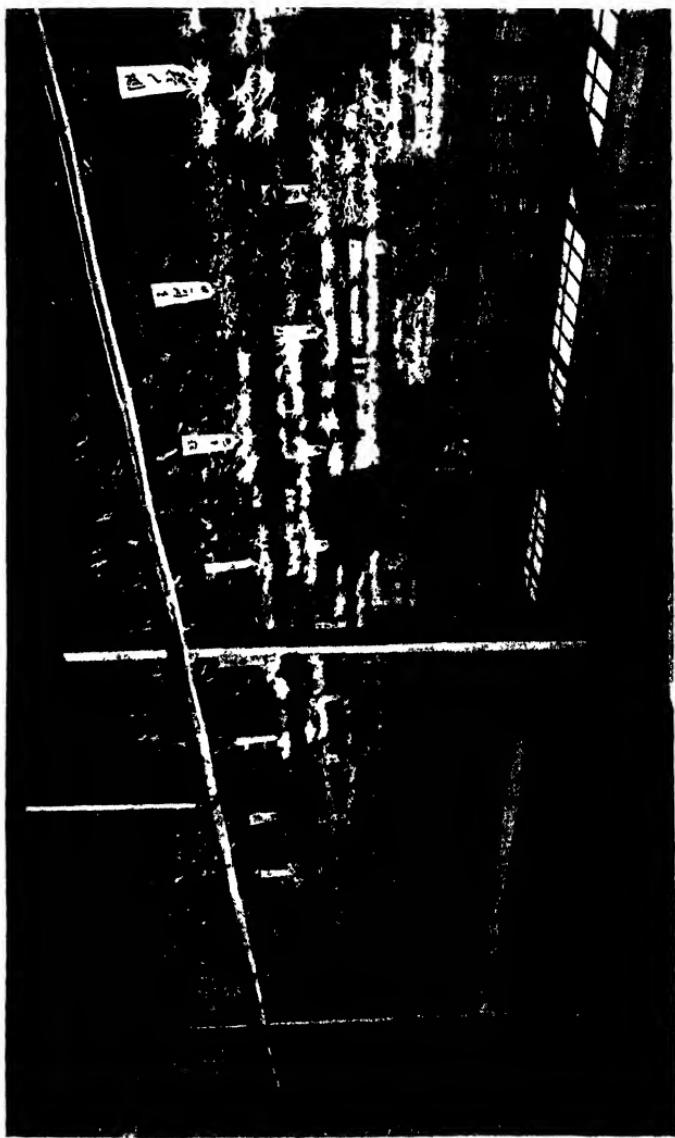
accustomed to elsewhere, but a regular meal of several courses: soup, fish, joints of meat, ice cream, with champagne and the other wines. The Empress took her place at the head of the table, and near her sat the Prince Higashi Fushimi and the Princesses. I observed that the Imperial party hardly touched any of the substantial food in front of them, while the guests did ample justice to the good things provided.

My place, facing the Empress, gave me an excellent view of the whole proceedings. With the exception of the Diplomatic Corps, and for some of the more distinguished guests, tables were not provided for the meal; the others were obliged to partake of refreshments at a long table, serving the purpose of a buffet, at which they stood and helped themselves. The service at the tables was performed by Japanese waiters, got up in the fashion of European lackeys, belonging to the Imperial household. About half an hour was occupied at the meal, and the Empress signified its termination by rising.

I must not omit to mention the very fine selection of European music played by the Japanese military bands during the time we were eating.

SHOW OF CHRYSANTHEMUMS IN THE IMPERIAL GARDENS AT AKASAKA, TOKIO.

[Facing p. 76



The men wore very French-looking uniforms, and played beautifully. The procession then re-formed; but before leaving, the Empress shook hands with some of the more distinguished of her guests, and wished me a pleasant sojourn in Japan and a safe return to my own country. Thus ended the annual chrysanthemum party, the whole of which was arranged with a perfection of detail that could not have been excelled at Buckingham Palace in London or the Elysée in Paris.

The entertainment I have been describing was one of the many evidences of the advancement of modern Japan; and the complete independence of outside assistance exhibited by the perfection of all the arrangements spoke volumes for the ability of the people to adopt other people's customs, and to adapt themselves to modern and changed conditions. Twenty years ago such an entertainment, on such a system and on such a scale, would have been beyond the capacity of the Japanese; but nowadays it is not thought anything wonderful.

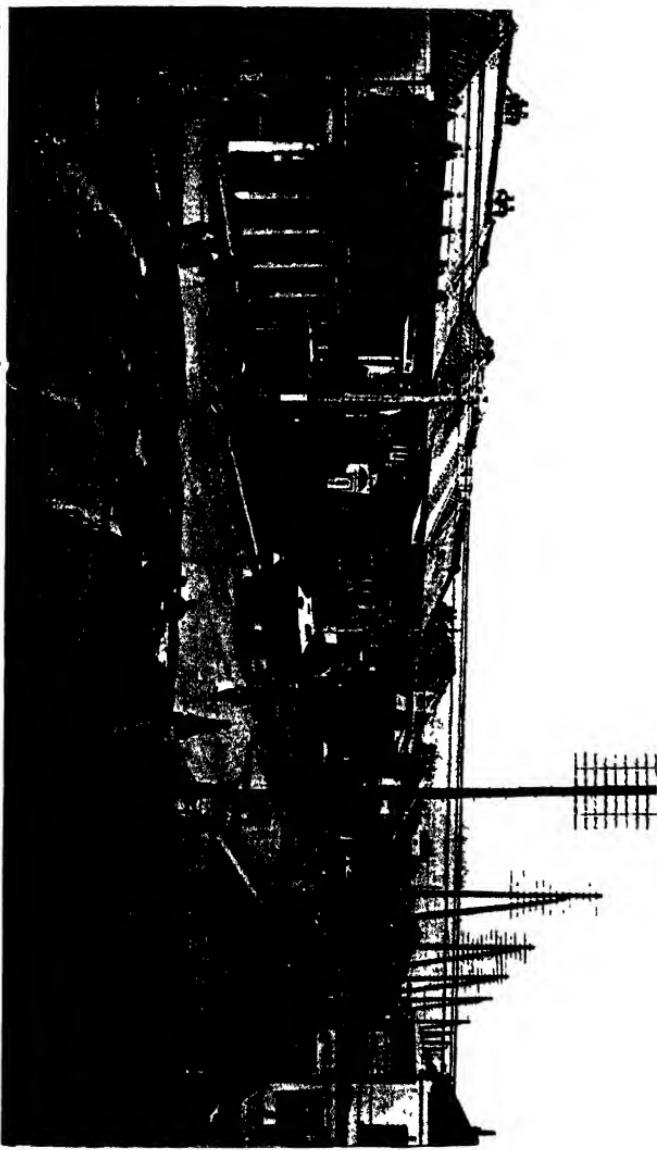
The Emperor, being busy with the autumn manœuvres, was unable to be present at the chrysanthemum garden party, as he was about a

day's journey away and had about 30,000 troops to inspect.

Immediately after the Empress's departure there was a rush for carriages. Ours was soon procured, and we made haste to catch the express back to Yokohama. I had little time to spare, as the annual Club Ball took place that night; and, dinner over, I betook myself to the club, and enjoyed myself immensely, and danced to my heart's content. A sumptuous supper was provided, and I remained with the gay crowd of all nations until one o'clock in the morning.

A noticeable feature of this ball was the almost entire absence of Japanese ladies and men, except the Governor of Yokohama and his wife. I also observed that, notwithstanding the advanced state of the Japanese, there was little social intercourse between them and the Europeans. It was only at ceremonial and official gatherings that they seemed to come together: the reason appears to be that the Japanese do not feel quite at ease in foreign society. I did not notice any disposition on the part of the Europeans to be exclusive in Japan.

Wishing to be at the capital and to participate



GINZA DORI, THE MAIN STREET (FROM SHIMBASHI), TOKIO.

in all that was going on in the centre of Japanese life, I left Yokohama, after having lunch with some English acquaintances, to make a stay at Tokio. The latter place has been the capital for two hundred years past, and now has a population of a million and a half. It is a city of magnificent distances, being ten miles from one end to the other. The time wasted in going about was awful. The aspect of the modern city, with its splendid buildings, such as the War Office, Houses of Parliament, Law Courts, etc., which form a circle about the central public gardens and recreation grounds, was distinctly neater than either Calcutta or Bombay, and recalled the appearance of the Ring Strasse in Vienna, from which no doubt the general arrangement has been copied.

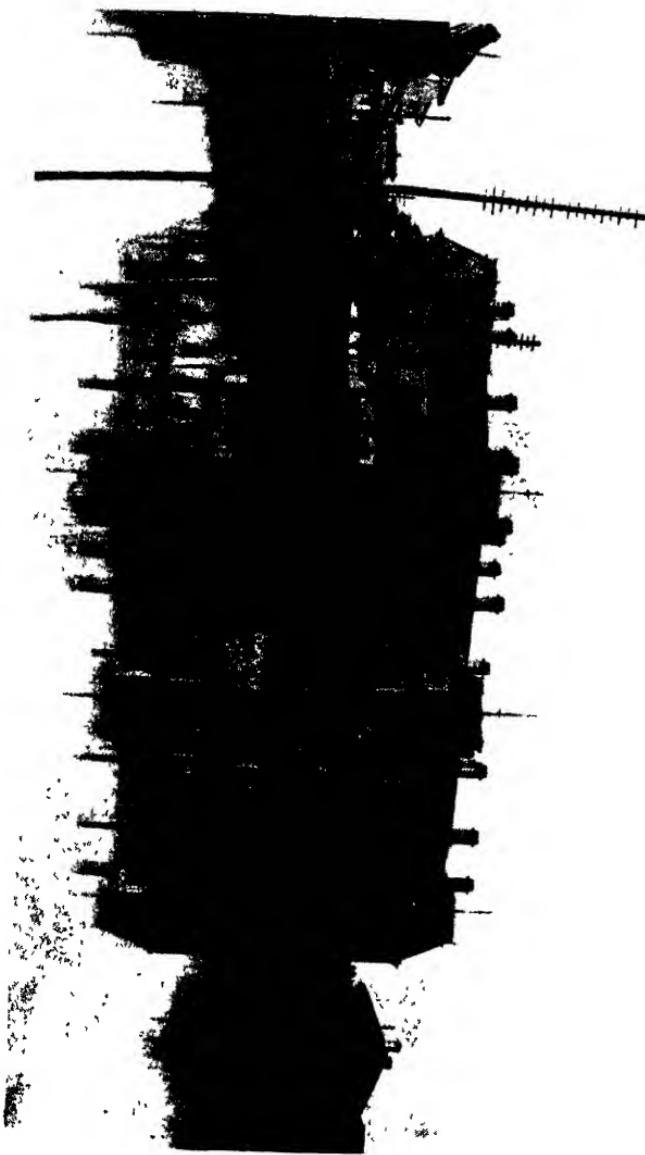
On reaching Tokio, we immediately made our way to the British Legation, whence Mr. Hohler, the second secretary, took us to see a wrestling-match, which took place in a house with a matted floor. On entering, we had to remove our shoes and put on canvas house slippers, this being the usual custom in Japan. At the outset the professor of wrestling explained, in English, the rudiments of the art of wrestling, and gave practical demon-

strations ; then the competitors came on the scene, and the bouts commenced.

The wrestling seemed to partake more of skill than of force or strength, and it was simply wonderful to see the ease with which a man was thrown merely by the turn of the hand or a twist of the foot of his opponent. It was extraordinary, too, that those who fell were so immune from serious hurt, considering the force with which they were sometimes thrown. The men were short, sturdy fellows, full of muscle. Each bout lasted about five or six minutes.

Wrestling is brought to a fine art in Japan. Even the policemen are taught all the tricks, and it has frequently happened that the police have had to exercise their skill on obstreperous but powerful foreign sailors, who, owing to the skill of the policeman, have invariably been promptly "grassed."

We remained for about two hours, during which time we witnessed about a dozen bouts, and then made our way to the Imperial Hotel, which was our residence during our stay in Tokio. The hotel was a big three-storey building, with a handsome façade and spacious public rooms on the ground floor. The dining-room had accommodation for about two



THE IMPERIAL HOTEL (JAPANESE MANAGEMENT), TOKIO

[Facing p. 80.]

hundred people, besides which there are a number of other rooms which are kept for private entertainments.

On the morning of the 15th I called on some of the Imperial Princes who are nearly related to the Emperor. Unfortunately they were all out, so I was able to leave cards only. Most of these Princes now possess substantial villas for pleasure purposes, built after French designs. Much expense has been gone to in furnishing them, and they are elaborately got up; but are used for the purpose of entertaining only, as the owners prefer to live in the simple Japanese fashion. From the Emperor downwards preference is given to the plain Japanese house, practically devoid of furniture, and these were always built in close proximity to the villas.

I also paid calls on the Russian, Italian, and Chinese Ministers, all of whom I saw and conversed with. His Excellency the Russian Minister told me on entering that he was a great friend of my predecessor, and that he used to play billiards with him—an observation which I was unable to grasp the meaning of until it was explained that His Excellency mistook me for the newly arrived Siamese Minister! During our conversation the

Russian Minister expressed the hope that the differences between his Government and that of Japan would be settled amicably; and on my inquiring if in his opinion the Japanese were really as strong as believed, he replied that the Japanese imagined that they were irresistible. He also mentioned that he was spied on by the police in Japan wherever he went, and that State despatches to his Government had to be sent by special messenger and forwarded by a Russian steamer for safety's sake from Nagasaki.

My interview with the Chinese Minister was full of interest; it took place soon after the Russian occupation of Mukden, the capital of Manchuria. In reply to sympathetic questions as to the action China would probably take in the matter, His Excellency replied with a broad grin and offered me a cup of tea and some of Wills' cigarettes!!!

Later in the day I went for a drive in the Ueno Park—the so-called Hyde Park of Tokio. It contains many fine trees and broad, well-kept avenues; there is also a museum, some temples, restaurants, and a fine art exhibition. I went through the latter and saw a number of paintings by Japanese artists, most of which were water-

DANCING.

[Facing p. 82.]



colours. From the park terrace a fine view of the city, lying as it were at one's feet, is obtainable.

After dinner I saw a *geisha* dance, which had been got up beforehand, in a tea-house where such entertainments were usually held. On arrival the women attendants made the usual salutation of kneeling down and bumping their heads on the ground. We removed our boots and put on house slippers, and then proceeded upstairs and entered the room set apart for the purpose of the entertainment. This place was the same as all other houses in Japan. It was made of wood, with paper screens to form partitions; these screens were made to slide in and out, and by adjustment could be made to form as many rooms as desired. The floor was covered with clean brown matting, and nothing could exceed the absolute cleanliness of the whole place.

At one end of the room some cushions were placed for the visitors to sit upon, and between each of them a metal or China fire-pot was stood to enable the visitors to warm their hands. Soon after we had taken our places, the women musicians put in an appearance, and after the usual salutation sat on the ground. Contrary to the prevailing

idea, the *geishas* do not dance. They play the accompaniments only, and the so-called *mykos* do all the dancing. The latter are little mites of nine to fourteen years of age. About half a dozen of the *mykos* entered and placed themselves in a row facing us, and soon after they commenced their weird but graceful dance. This consisted of a variety of pretty movements of the body and slow waving of their delicate hands to the accompaniment of the *geishas'* music and singing.

The *mykos* looked like butterflies in their garments of many colours and pretty sashes, while the *geishas* were sombre in their dark costumes. At intervals the *mykos* would cease dancing and rest, subsequently resuming. The dances represented War, Love, the Seasons of the Year, etc., etc., the interpretations being made by the pantomime and gesticulations of the dancers whose mimicry was so good as to make this a matter of no difficulty.

These miniature dancers were absolutely fascinating in their child-like innocence, and resembled dolls more than budding women. The *geishas*, I may add, must all be *mykos* before they are considered competent to perform the music and sing. I noticed that a number of them had disfigured their lips



A TYPE OF GEISHA.

[Facing p 84.

by the too free use of rouge and by blackening their teeth, these practices being indicative of extreme coquettishness, in their estimation. The performers served refreshments, from time to time, in the shape of tea, saki, etc., etc., during intervals of the dance. This novel and interesting entertainment enchanted me until past midnight. On leaving, with one dulcet voice all said, "Sainara," which means goodbye.

On the 16th I had lunch with Herr von Erckert, the first secretary to the German Legation, and his wife, and subsequently attended a garden party given by Count Okuma, one of the so-called "Elder Statesmen." Such *fêtes* are frequently given by the aristocratic members of Japanese society for the purpose, among others, of exhibiting their beloved chrysanthemums. Those I saw at Count Okuma's were in no way inferior to those exhibited at the Imperial garden party a few days before. The garden was typically Japanese, with the usual characteristic miniature lakes, islands, bridges, and dwarf trees. At this party three Imperial Princesses and a Prince, besides a large gathering of Tokio society, were present.

In company with Royalty our venerable host

took me for a turn in the garden, and from the top of a hillock we obtained a good view of the adjacent country. At four o'clock all the guests sat down to a hearty meal. Two tables for Royalty were set apart, and at one of them I took my place, with the beautiful Princess Nashimoto on my left. She conversed with me in French, and I must confess that the beauty of that language lost nothing by her peculiar pronunciation of it. The Princess had been married only a short time, and her husband was then in France undergoing a course at a military school. The bashful *naïveté*, the manners, and the conversation of these Princesses were altogether delightful, and differed wholly from those of European ladies. I was plied with questions as to the sights I had seen in Japan, and on my mentioning the *geisha* dance, much amusement and laughter were the result. The party broke up at five o'clock, and all took leave of their host and went home.

A ball was given after dinner at the British Legation, so I had no time to spare after leaving the garden party. It was a formal affair, and all present were in full war-paint. I wore my best Punjabi costume, and this attracted much attention,



HER IMPERIAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS NASHIMOTO

From a photograph presented to Ram Sahiba

[At p. 66.]



HER IMPERIAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS NASHIMOTO IN
EUROPEAN DRESS.

From a photograph presented to Rani Sahiba

[At p. 86.]

as none of those present had ever seen one before. I entered the ballroom in company of the Princesses and the Princes and my host and hostess in solemn procession. The European diplomats and Japanese officials, as well as the other guests, were collected in the room as we entered, and the sight was really a fine one: pretty dresses, uniforms covered with decorations, all made up a brilliant scene the like of which is rarely seen in India.

The State quadrille was first danced, and for a partner I had the honour of dancing with the charming Princess Nashimoto, who was exquisitely dressed, *à l'europeenne*, in purple velvet, and wore fine diamonds on her head and neck. At midnight we adjourned for supper to a temporary room which had been put up for the purpose. Shortly after the Royalties left, and after saying good-night to my host and charming hostess, I also departed. Tokio society owes Lady MacDonald a debt of gratitude for the splendid entertainments which she so frequently gives, and for the kindly interest taken by her in all social and charitable institutions.

On the 17th I visited the famous Shiba Temples, the finest in the capital. Several temples

are situated in a quadrangle, and their interior decorations were on a somewhat elaborate scale, and consisted of painted and gilded wood carvings. I happened to visit the main temple at the time midday prayers were in progress. The priests and worshippers at intervals stood and knelt, repeating in a droning voice the Buddhist formula, "Om namo ami Daibutsu" ("Salute to Buddha"). It is said that the Emperor goes to these Buddhist temples once a year.

It may not be generally known that in Japan two religions prevail: one is Buddhism in two or three different forms; the other is Shintoism, which is the State or Emperor's religion. The latter can hardly be dignified by the name of religion, as it consists chiefly of ancestor worship, coupled to a very simple moral code, the chief principle of which is the deification of the Mikado. As a matter of fact, however, the average Japanese does not trouble his head seriously about religion of any kind.

After doing the temples, I asked if I might see the head-priest, and was taken into the monastery, where he received me very courteously and offered the usual cup of tea (or, as it is called

A LIMPIE, IONIO
[Facing p 83]



in Japan, *O'cha*). The tea, I may mention, was yellow in colour, and was served minus milk or sugar. It is customary to offer this tea wherever one went, no matter if it were in a shop or a temple. The high-priest was dressed in a yellow robe, and looked very learned and sage-like. He took me to see the other priests reciting their hymns, which I thought sounded like the Vedic hymns, as in both the droning, chant-like tone is adopted. At the close of their devotions the priests bowed their heads and joined their hands just as Hindus do. On leaving, the high-priest presented me with two copies of the Buddhist ritual printed in Japanese characters.

Immediately after leaving the spiritual atmosphere of the temples, I participated in an up-to-date wedding reception at the Imperial Hotel, to which I had been invited. The happy couple belonged to the aristocracy of Tokio, and after the wedding ceremony they met all their friends at the Imperial Hotel to receive their good wishes and congratulations. Several hundred guests appeared, and they comprised the *elite* of European and Japanese society. The bride (who belonged to one of the few Christian families) and bride-

groom stood at the entrance and received their guests. The felicitations over, all present adjourned to the next room—I taking in the bride's mother—and sat down to a tremendous repast, towards the end of which the usual healths were proposed and drunk, after which the guests departed.

I may mention that in Japan marriages are arranged by a go-between, who, unlike people of the same class in India, are influential folk in their own particular circle. The marriage tie is very loose, and this is particularly the case among the lower class of people. According to modern law, a man can only have one legal wife; but the law is so lax that it is a common thing for a man to go to a registrar's office and on the smallest pretext to request that his wife's name may be struck off as a member of his family. After that he invariably procures another wife more to his liking. The subordination of the wife to the husband is complete. Her first duty is obedience to her husband; the second, obedience to her mother-in-law; and the third, obedience to her son in the event of her becoming a widow.

At the wedding I have been describing the bride and bridegroom were dressed in European

costume, but I observed that most of the Japanese ladies adhered to their own dress. European dress for Japanese is only considered *de rigueur* at Court functions, and some time ago an order was issued to the effect that Japanese costume at State ceremonials was to be abolished for all time. This order applied to men as well as ladies. A majority of Europeans and many Japanese men (the latter for reasons of economy) deplore the change from the national costume to that of the European; but from all I was able to gather, the real reason for the change was (in common with all other changes in Japan which tend towards Western ideas and appearances) to foster the impression that similarity of outward appearance induced a mental condition of equality.

During a drive through a part of the city in the evening, I came to a broad, well-lighted street, having two and three-storied buildings on either side. Each house had a spacious platform in front of it, which was enclosed by gilt iron railings, the back portions being elaborately decorated and gilded. Within these enclosures, like a lot of wild animals in a zoological garden, sat a number of women, dressed in the gaudiest manner.

The street was thronged with people of both sexes, it being the anniversary of some festival, and many of them, including women and girls, amused themselves by looking through the iron bars at the fair creatures imprisoned within. The latter were speechless and sat motionless, apparently indifferent to the gaze of the onlookers.

I was wholly at a loss to understand the meaning of this extraordinary spectacle, and on inquiring from my guide, was informed that in this street, as well as some others, all the women of the so-called unfortunate class were confined, and by law were never allowed to leave it without special permission. The quarter I refer to is called "Yoshiwara"; and it is indicative of the difference in the feelings of delicacy and ideas of morality prevailing in different parts of the world that the Japanese women and girls of the respectable middle class thought nothing of going to the place and looking on at all that was in progress, just as if it were an ordinary fair or a *tamasha*.

The difficulty of dealing with women of such a degraded kind as I have referred to is in all civilised communities a great one, and only the exhibition and practice of great common-sense can

ever effectually grapple with an important matter of this kind, affecting as it does public decency and morality. Possibly other communities might take a leaf out of the book of the Japanese with advantage.

On the morning of November 18 we were invited to participate in one of the Imperial duck-hunts, a few of which are annually held in the different Imperial preserves, to which distinguished guests and members of the Diplomatic Corps are usually invited. The day was unfortunately cloudy and threatening. When all the guests had collected, under tents, and a move was about to be made, the rain commenced, which, however, did not damp the ardour of the sportsmen. The guests were received by Prince Higashi Fushimi (who was accompanied by his wife) on behalf of the Emperor. The Prince, who wore naval uniform, remained with the Princess in one of the tea-houses, while the guests, notwithstanding the rain, were conducted by Count Toda, grand-master of the hunt. The party, which was a large one, was then divided into a number of smaller parties, each of which was assigned to a different part of the ground over which the hunt was to take place.

The method employed for the capture of the

duck was unique. It consisted in decoying the wild duck from a large sheet of water where they had collected, to a number of smaller lakes, on one side of which a sort of low wall, covered with foliage, was erected. Behind the wall the sportsmen took up their positions, each armed with a kind of exaggerated butterfly-net. At a given signal the sportsmen suddenly rose up, and, the duck becoming alarmed by their appearance, were promptly captured by a dexterous movement and by dropping the net over them.

I did not succeed in making a capture, although the process did not appear to be a difficult one. Nevertheless I can easily imagine that it seems to be easier than in reality it is, and that a certain amount of manual dexterity is essential to success. The victims of the hunt were immediately disposed of by *shikaries*, and were subsequently cooked and served for lunch, which meal formed a pleasing termination to an enjoyable form of sport. The total bag amounted to fifty birds. During the intervals of the sport refreshments, consisting of champagne, tea, coffee, chocolate, etc., were served in a comfortably warmed tent, and this diversion whiled away the time pleasantly.

At lunch-time each of the male guests was assigned a lady to take in, and lunch was served in a large kiosk situated in the middle of a lake, which was reached by a miniature bridge of very artistic pattern. A *recherche* hot lunch greeted us on reaching the kiosk, and we all took the places, which had been allotted to us beforehand, at little tables dotted about the place. The arrangements were perfectly executed: even our coats and wraps were not overlooked; all had been ticketed and numbered in the most careful manner to avoid confusion.

The kiosk had been well placed with the object of securing the best outlook in every direction, and its surrounding crystal water and the view of the multi-coloured foliage of the trees were extremely effective. It was my misfortune to be obliged to curtail my stay, as I had to catch a train to Utsonomiya. An hour's drive took us to Ueno Station, whence, in company of Captain Imori, of the Japanese General Staff, we left at 3.20. Captain Imori was especially deputed to be with me and to explain the manœuvres which took place the following day. He had a fair knowledge of French, acquired in Japan. We reached Utsonomiya the

same evening, and on arriving I was met by two military officers, sent by the Commander of the Imperial Guards, and the Inspector of Police. They escorted me to a Japanese hotel close by, where a few rooms, furnished in the European style, had been set aside for my accommodation, in which I spent the night in fair comfort.

The day after my arrival I went in a 'rickshaw for a drive around the neat little town of Utsonomiya, and subsequently went to the parade ground where the manœuvres were to take place, about three miles away. On reaching the place, no troops were to be seen, and the sound of distant firing of cannon and musketry was the only indication of the proximity of soldiers. After some delay I was taken to a certain spot, where I met and was introduced to General Hasegawa, commanding the Imperial Guards, who on that occasion was acting as Umpire-in-Chief.

Just then the opposing forces came into sight, and I hurried off to obtain a better view of the troops when they came into collision. I succeeded so well that I found myself in the thick of the *melée*, with the belligerents less than fifty yards of one another. The engagement commenced in

the usual manner with an artillery duel, by which each side hoped to shake the other, after which the infantry forces advanced to the attack. It was most interesting to watch their efforts to outflank one another and to see their clever method of taking cover whenever the opportunity presented itself.

I have seen the soldiers of almost all the European troops on parade, and, judging from the appearance of these Japanese, it was difficult to believe for the moment that I was in the Far East. The uniforms were all of the French fashion, but the movements and the drill have been copied from the Germans. The illusion was only dispelled when, on close inspection, the difference of features became noticeable. The battle soon came to an end, and the soldiers at once became friends again, and fraternised over their food and drink. The Japanese must have remarkable staying power, as on the occasion I am describing the troops had been under arms from about four in the morning until eleven, and they did not seem to be any the worse for the fatiguing time they had experienced.

The Japanese army should not be difficult to

cater for, from what I saw. Each soldier was provided with a neat little case, arranged so as to be carried in the knapsack. The case had a capacity for one day's ration, and this consisted of a certain quantity of preserved beef in one compartment, while in another a preparation of boiled rice was carried. The rice seemed to have been boiled to the consistency of a thick jelly or a kind of pudding. Still another small compartment was designed to hold the indispensable chopsticks.

The great merit of the arrangement was the beautifully compact and portable manner in which the rations could be carried, as well as the concentrated form which the food itself took, thus rendering each soldier independent for a day of his commissariat department. I remained among them for some time, taking mental notes of all I saw. I carefully scrutinised their clothing, the way in which they ate, and many other personal details, all of which interested me greatly.

The march past having been fixed to take place at two o'clock, about five miles from the scene of the final fight, there was just time for me to reach the hotel, have lunch, and be present for

the grand final. On reaching the saluting base, I found the troops drawn up with great regularity on three sides of the square. On one side the cavalry were standing, on another side were the artillery, while the third side was occupied by the infantry in close formation. At the saluting base were the General Officer Commanding the Imperial Guard and the officers of the staff, one of the latter being a nephew of the Emperor, a tiny and sturdy man of about five feet only.

At this juncture a civilian Minister, got up in a top hat and a frock coat, appeared on the scene. This functionary conveyed to the staff the Emperor's satisfaction at the highly efficient manner in which the manœuvres had been carried out. This message was listened to by the staff, who were dismounted and bareheaded ; subsequently the Emperor's message was communicated to the troops. The staff having remounted, the march past commenced by the cavalry going by at the trot ; these were followed by the artillery, and the infantry brought up the rear.

The *personnel* of the cavalry was good, but the men were badly mounted on undersized ponies, which would not bear comparison with cavalry

mounts in Europe or India. It is difficult to see how such cavalry can ever successfully oppose the sturdy and well-mounted Cossack. It remains to be seen, however, how they will fare during the present conflict; war is full of surprises. The artillery turned out well, and on the whole appeared to be a good lot. The batteries were well horsed and the guns up-to-date. The infantry did nothing but excite my admiration; they maintained splendid formation and marched like veterans. The German "goose-step" has been adopted by the Japanese infantry, which, although useless in war, nevertheless adds to the appearance of the men on parade and assists them in keeping formation.

As each column passed the saluting base, the officer at its head saluted the General Officer Commanding with his sword, and at a smartly uttered word of command in Japanese the column under him saluted "Eyes right." All the troops on parade belonged to the Imperial Life Guards, which has a total strength of about twenty thousand men; of these about one half were present and participated in the manœuvres and march past. The men when I saw them were in Field Service kit, and although travel-stained after their arduous

PUBLIC SHOWS, WITH THE TWELVE-STORIED TOWER, ASAKUSA PARK, TOKIO.

[*Facing p 122.*



work that morning, they looked uncommonly fit, and seemed quite up to any enterprise. At the termination of the parade I said good-bye to the General Officer Commanding and to some of the officers present, and proceeded to the station in time to catch the train for Tokio, which place we reached rather late for dinner.

The morning of the 20th I devoted to visiting the great Imperial University, which was several miles distant from the Imperial Hotel. I was accompanied by one of the secretaries of the British Legation, and on arrival was received by the director and several officers of the university, under whose guidance we commenced a tour of inspection. The university is divided into several large blocks, each of which is devoted to a separate subject. I saw the department of languages, where in different rooms were professors who taught French, German, and English.

Each professor was a native of the country whose language he taught; English, however, was taught by an American. I listened for a time to the French professor imparting instruction, and was amused at the efforts of his pupils to acquire correct pronunciation; their knowledge was other-

wise fairly correct. Out of a large staff of professors, those teaching languages were the only foreigners; all the others were natives of Japan, most of whom had studied the higher branches of their subject either in Europe or America. The comprehensive nature of the subjects being taught struck me as being remarkable, and I could not avoid making comparisons with my own country, inasmuch as it had never before occurred to me that the instruction I saw being imparted could be acquired out of Europe.

The progress these Japanese have made during the past thirty years in the arts and sciences is simply amazing. Here I saw halls filled with eager students, working hard on such subjects as naval architecture, civil engineering, the manufacture of ordnance and ammunition, telegraphy, electrical engineering in all its branches, shipbuilding, and many other subjects of the highest importance to the prosperity of a rising nation. Among the students I was surprised to notice two from Nepal, who had been sent there by the Nepalese Government.

In each department of the Imperial College I found the most complete sets of designs and models

of all kinds. This was particularly so in the matter of naval architecture, which branch was replete with scale models of all the most recent designs of battleships, cruisers, destroyers, torpedo-boats, etc., etc.

The reason for the present importance of Japan among the nations of the world is not far to seek. In order to acquire the knowledge of the arts and sciences which the people lacked, the Japanese Government sent several hundred students to the best seats of learning in Europe and America. There they got the knowledge they needed, and on their return to their native land appointments from among them were made, in order that their knowledge might be disseminated. This process was repeated year after year in a decreasing ratio, until at this time there is less need to send students to Europe, except perhaps for the purpose of original research and in order to keep the colleges and institutions in Japan well posted and up-to-date in all new inventions and things modern.

The Japanese seem to have passed all the Western arts and sciences in review, and to have adopted from among them all that is good, while they have had the discrimination to reject that which is bad or

indifferent. In the matter of medical as well as some other sciences, they have followed the lead of Germany; similarly for naval architecture they have adopted the English system as a model. Again, in matters military and legal they have copied the German and French systems respectively, while the mechanical arts in Japan are largely the result of American initiative. After having studied the various systems in the different countries famous for a particular speciality, they have adopted that portion only which in their impartial opinion is good, and at the present time they are piecing together, as it were, all the various parts of the whole, and evolving a system in each branch of industry of their own. It remains to be seen how far their judgment is reliable, but from results already achieved it would seem that the Japanese do not lack the power of accurate discrimination.

My visit to this interesting and highly important institution was terminated by a short inspection of the library attached to the university. It contained many thousand volumes in different languages on a variety of scientific subjects, and must be found an invaluable aid to the students in their search for knowledge. In this place also I saw the great

Sanskrit collection of the late Professor Max Müller, which had been purchased by a wealthy Japanese philanthropist and presented to the college.

Two hours' hard work on my part sufficed to give me only a general and cursory idea of all the marvels of this truly wonderful seat of learning; other engagements compelled me to curtail a pleasure which I found full of interest and pregnant with meaning for the future of Japan. To have seen the place in a really thorough manner would have taken up the whole of the day.

My next place of call was the High Court of Justice. On my arrival I was met by Sir Claude MacDonald, who, together with some Japanese officials, was good enough to conduct me through the building, which, although imposing and substantial enough in appearance, lacked the amount of ornate decoration one is accustomed to see in similar places in Europe. The judges were all collected in their large reception-room, where I was formally received by them with the usual number of low bows and smiles. After taking our seats, tea as a matter of course was served; this act of politeness demanded that we should partake of it, no matter whether we liked it or not.

Tea over, I was conducted to the different courts where the judges who had just been entertaining me were sitting ready to hear their cases. The gown and a peculiar hat were worn by all of them. In each case the place of honour on the Bench was given to me, and I listened to the proceedings, which, owing to my ignorance of the Japanese language, I was not able to grasp. The cases were tried, and the judgments and records were all done in the Japanese language.

After a morning profitably and interestingly spent in sight-seeing, I had *déjeuner* at a Japanese restaurant charmingly situated on an eminence overlooking and commanding a fine view of Tokio. Breakfast finished, I went to see a great prison some seven miles out of the town. At the entrance I was received by the chief warder, who regaled me with tea, and then conducted me through the wards of the huge establishments.

The arrangements and organisation I found to be perfect; the detail would easily bear favourable comparison with the best establishments of a similar kind in any country in the world. There were probably about two thousand people incarcerated in the jail, all of whom were at the time of my

visit busily engaged in their various occupations. Basket-weaving, as well as the making of brooms and mats, seemed to be the principal things being done, and at these the prisoners were adepts. Their dress consisted of a distinctive costume of a yellowish colour, and it was noticeable that fetters were in no case resorted to as a means of securing the men. On our entering the different wards, the prisoners, at a word of command, ceased working ; at another order they simultaneously bowed low, and on a final order being given, they resumed work.

The thing which attracted my attention most in connection with the prisoners was their appearance ; in jails one instinctively looks for, and finds, a type of physiognomy indicative of a low or villainous species of humanity. Indeed, the so-called "criminal type" in Europe is well known and understood, but among these Japanese prisoners there was nothing in their features or appearance to show or to hint that they were other than peaceful, law-abiding citizens.

On going through the jail yard it was difficult to conceive that the prisoners were men under restraint : they were all working with an apparent

good will, and seemed to be content with their lot, as far as one could judge from external appearance ; and, above all, the jail-birds had not lost their native politeness, which asserted itself by the exhibition of a deferential bow whenever one passed them. Inquiry elicited the information that capital punishment was rarely resorted to, and that the crime of murder was comparatively rare: by this it must be understood that murder is not always punished by death, the extreme penalty being inflicted only in special cases, and is then effected by decapitation.

The living-quarters of the prisoners attracted my attention by the excellence of their arrangement and design: three men slept in one cubicle, attached to which are the usual modern sanitary appliances ; and the whole gave one the idea that the place was a model of its kind. The prisoners were also provided with spacious plunge-baths, of which they make good use three times a week. Cleanliness is held in high esteem in Japan: even the coolies bathe daily! The prisoners are provided with an abundance of plain, wholesome food twice daily, consisting of rice, fish, and occasionally meat.



A VIEW IN UENO PARK, TOKIO

[Facing p. 108.]

I concluded my day by dining with Mr. and Mrs. Barclay; the former is first secretary to the British Legation, and his wife a charming American. These were old acquaintances; I met them first in Rome during my first visit to Europe, when he was attached to the British Embassy. A select party was invited to meet me; it included Viscount Aoki, one of the foremost Japanese statesmen: he had married a German lady.

On the 21st I had *déjeuner* at a Japanese restaurant in Ueno Park with a celebrated German physician, Dr. Baelz, who is an old resident of Japan and well acquainted with every one in the country, from the Emperor to the peasantry. Although in private practice, Dr. Baelz is the recipient of a handsome retaining fee from the Imperial Family, whom he attends regularly.

I found the doctor a most interesting companion, owing to his intimate knowledge of the country and people and to the freedom with which he expressed his opinions and imparted his experiences. My conversation with him was most instructive, and I gained more information from him in a short time than I would otherwise have got from the people of the country during the whole of my trip.

I found the Japanese either reluctant to give information or indifferent to the inquiries of foreigners. When one asked a question, it was usually answered by a bow or a smile, or the person interrogated evinced great readiness to acquiesce in all one said or thought. I cannot recall a Japanese (with one exception) who willingly volunteered information or responded to questions on an important topic.

Dr. Baelz has a most intimate connection with the Emperor, who exhibited his confidence in him by entrusting the care of the Crown Prince to him. The latter was formerly of a very delicate temperament, and the utmost care and skill were requisite to improve his health; thus Dr. Baelz had no sinecure; but he succeeded, however, in completely restoring the Crown Prince from a condition of serious bad health to one of comparative robustness; and when the time came for his patient to be married, Dr. Baelz was consulted on this delicate and important matter. So bad was the Crown Prince's health that at times it was feared that the direct line of male heirs to the Japanese throne would become extinct; happily this condition of affairs had been averted, and the

young Prince is now the proud father of three sons.

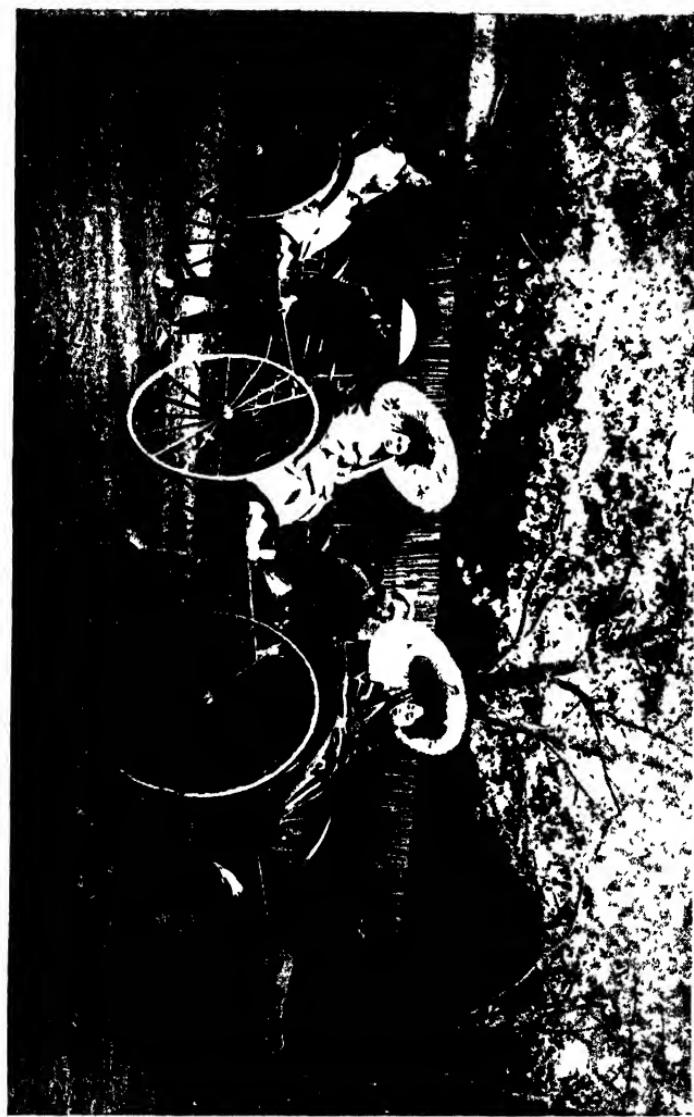
In the grounds of the Ueno Park there is an Imperial Museum, over which Dr. Baelz was good enough to conduct me after breakfast. The building is somewhat in the Indian style, inasmuch as the usual minaret, known to every traveller in India, formed one of the leading features of the external decoration. There was a good collection of Japanese antiquities to be seen, as well as some extraordinary sedan chairs and old-fashioned vehicles designed to be drawn by bullocks. These were used in the olden time by the Imperial Family and the aristocracy of the country. I was surprised to see some stone figures and statues which had been unearthed in Japan, and which evidently were of great antiquity. Each one bore an inscription in Sanskrit, and on close examination it became quite clear that the statues had either been sent from India or were imitations made from descriptions given by travellers from that country. In any case, whatever their origin, the statues were objects of the greatest interest and curiosity.

My attention was next attracted to an exhibition

of Japanese paintings and industries. The artistic rendering of all the subjects depicted was evident, but the style was of course essentially Japanese. I indulged my taste for art by making a few purchases. Time had passed so pleasantly and quickly that it was with some regret that I commenced my journey to the holy city of Nikko, which place we reached at 9 p.m.

Nikko being in the mountains, and somewhat higher than we had been accustomed to during the time preceding our visit, we found the cold intense during our drive in 'rickshaws from the station to the Kanaya Hotel, at which place we were hospitably received and well treated. The discussion of a *recherché* dinner, well cooked and served by charmingly dainty Japanese maidens, soon dispelled the cold discomfort of the drive. I think the novelty of being waited on by Japanese waitresses will never wholly disappear. They glide about in a perfectly noiseless manner, they are distinctly polite, and their national costumes lend them an air of picturesque charm difficult to describe. The hotel was managed entirely by Japanese, and its cleanliness and comfort were all that could be desired.

SOME JAPANESE 'RICKSHAWS, WITH THEIR FAIR OCCUPANTS.



The 22nd of November was wholly occupied in making an excursion to Chuzenji, the Simla of Japan. The journey by 'rickshaws took three hours to complete. The road, which was fairly good, passed through fine mountain scenery, and we saw some beautiful waterfalls *en route*. The imposing grandeur of the Himalayas or Alps was absent; nevertheless, the scenery was pretty of its kind. The 'rickshaw coolies were wonderfully strong; one man alone managed the 'rickshaw, and only when the road became very steep was the assistance of another called for. A trip of twenty miles at top speed is of ordinary occurrence to them. With a single man this performance seemed to be wonderful to me.

As the end of the journey approached, the road gradually became steeper, and wound in and out of the hills. We passed a number of tea-houses on the way, at which the 'rickshaw coolies refreshed themselves, while we took advantage of the stoppages to admire the remaining autumn tints which still lingered on the maple-trees. Had we been there three weeks earlier, the tints would have appeared in their full perfection. Standing on the edge of the precipice, one got a view several miles

in extent of the really fine trees which had just shed their leaves. Some vestige, however, remained, and judging from these, it was not difficult to imagine the very fine spectacle which must have been presented when the trees were in the full glory of their autumn colour. The sight is one which takes numerous people to this place alone, as it is worth a visit for this reason, if for no other.

A stiff climb took us to Chuzenji, where we put up in a little wooden hotel called the Lakeside, and refreshed ourselves with lunch, served, as usual, by delightful Japanese waitresses. Owing to the altitude (about four thousand feet) and to the season, we found the cold bitter indeed. Chuzenji is a favourite resort of the foreign Ministers during the three summer months, at which time the climate is very pleasant, although sometimes wet. A lake, the banks of which are well wooded, is one of the attractions of the place, and picturesquely situated in the woods are the huts occupied by the European visitors. Our visit was curtailed owing to threatening weather ; but before leaving, we saw all there was to be seen. Three hours sufficed for our return, and the remainder of the day I passed quietly.



A VIEW OF THE CASTLE MOAT, WITH THE WAR OFFICES, TOKIO.

[*Facing p. 114.*

The following day (November 23) was spent in sightseeing in Nikko itself. I may mention that Nikko is a double glory of nature and of art. Mountains, cascades, monumental trees, etc., have always been there. Its altitude of two thousand feet, together with its beautiful natural surroundings, all tend to make it unrivalled from the scenic point of view. It is famous also for its temples, and it is inconceivable to imagine anything more beautiful than the walks through the hills, where one sees magnificent avenues of cryptomaria trees. The place has a high reputation as a health resort but suffers from the drawback of a somewhat wet climate.

During the day I visited three of the principal temples, at one of which the high-priest kindly took me into the innermost and most sacred recesses, where few foreigners were permitted to go. There the head-priest explained a great deal to us, and gave us some of the sacred water to drink. The Nikko temples (the finest in Japan) are nearly all Buddhist; but there are a few Shinto. In June great festivals are held at the temples, and picturesque processions are formed by the people, who, for the time being, wholly abandon

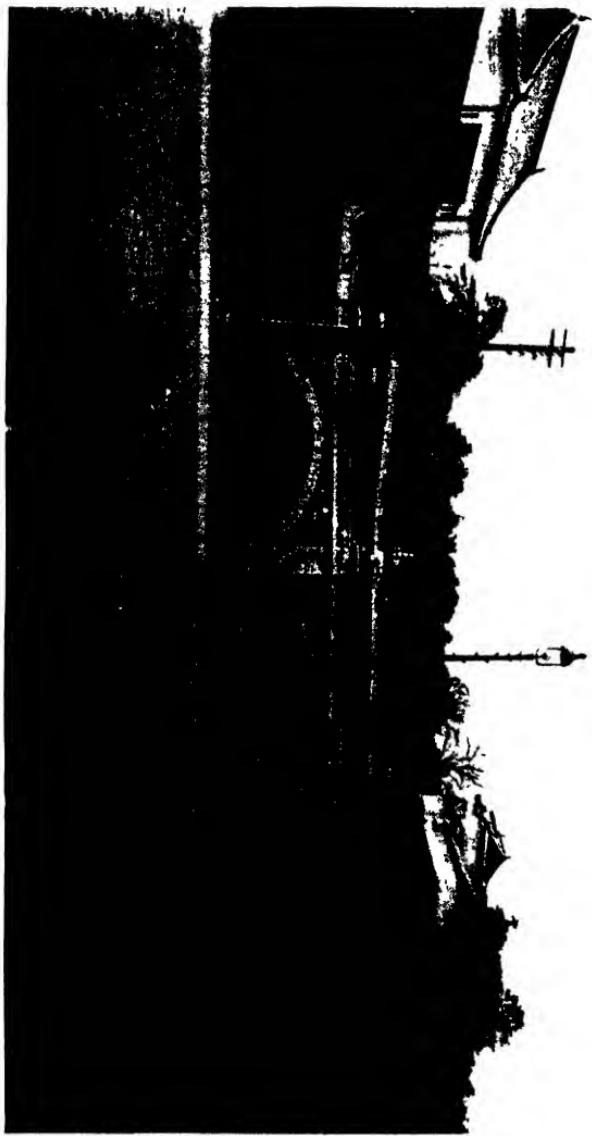
themselves to rejoicing and pleasure. Nikko is also the resort of some members of the Imperial Family during the summer months.

On rising the next morning I was enchanted to find that a change in the weather had made it delightfully cold and bracing. The bright sky, after the past few days' dulness, was particularly welcome ; the drop in the temperature had reached freezing-point, and this was the cause of the hill-sides being covered with a thick coating of hoar frost—a beautiful sight indeed. A brisk walk through some of the prettiest places sharpened my appetite for lunch, after which I left for Tokio, where I arrived at seven in the evening.

My birthday fell on this day—November 25—and the same day had been fixed for my audience with the Emperor ; so I proceeded to the Imperial Palace, where I was met by Sir Claude MacDonald, who kindly accompanied me when I was presented to the Emperor. The Imperial Palace occupies an extensive piece of ground, and is surrounded by a large and deep moat. At each entrance to the palace there are bridges which lead up to very large and massive iron gates, at each of which guards are posted. The buildings and the sur-

THE OUTER ENTRANCE TO THE IMPERIAL PALACE, TOKIO.

[Facing p. 116.



roundings are all in the Japanese style. In all there are three enormous enclosures, to the first of which only is the public admitted.

On reaching the Palace, I was met by one of the Court officials, who conducted me through some long corridors to the large rooms, of magnificent proportions, set aside for the purpose of receptions. Soon after my arrival the Baron Sannomiya entered the apartment, and informed me of the Emperor's readiness to receive me; we followed the Baron to an apartment close by, where the Emperor advanced to the threshold to meet me. Baron Sannomiya introduced me, upon which the Emperor shook my hand and conducted me a few paces into the room. During the whole of the interview the Emperor stood in front of a chair of State, behind which were a number of officials also standing.

The Emperor knows no European language, so Baron Sannomiya acted as interpreter; this necessarily made the conversation rather stilted. Nevertheless, His Majesty asked me if I had enjoyed my visit to Japan, if I liked the country, and if I had caught any duck at the duck-hunt a few days before. When my replies to his questions were translated, the Emperor gave vent to a loud

"Ha-Ha-Hum-Hum." It appears that this "Ha-Ha," etc., etc., was merely indicative of satisfaction or acquiescence in one's reply, and is a common trait with Japanese. A few more commonplaces closed the interview, just before which Sir C. MacDonald was presented and shaken hands with, as were two of my staff who were with me.

The Emperor appeared to be of middle age and medium stature; on the occasion of my visit he was got up in a plain dark military uniform without decorations. His uniform, by the way, seemed to have been made by guesswork as regards its dimensions; this is not to be wondered at when one bears in mind common gossip to the effect that, owing to the sanctity of his person, no one of his subjects is permitted to touch him.

On my departure, His Majesty accompanied me as far as the door of the apartment, and there shook hands with me and wished me goodbye, at the same time bowing several times. His Majesty's manner and bearing towards me were indicative of unusual cordiality, and I have it on the authority of Sir Claude MacDonald that I had been treated with exceptional consideration and honour.



仁睡

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN,
WITH FACSIMILE SIGNATURE.

From an original presented to the Author

[Facing p. 118]

creasingly important industry. All the rooms were perfumed with an essence of lavender, and were well warmed.

Returning to the hotel for breakfast, I subsequently visited the Asakosa Park, which to Japan is the same as the Crystal Palace is to London. The park is intersected by streets running in different directions, in which all kinds of ornamental goods, such as dolls, fans, etc., etc., are sold in booths. Confectionery is made before the public and sold on the spot. The prevailing cleanliness and neat surroundings of these confectioners formed a temptation to buy and eat which otherwise would have been absent.

The side-shows were very numerous, and all the usual features of a fair were present ; there we saw clever jugglers, itinerant artists, wrestlers, actors, etc., etc. Theatrical performances were in full swing and were well patronised by the people, of which large numbers, all bent on holiday-making, were present. The contrast between the people at this place and those one sees in Paris and London, or indeed anywhere in Europe, similarly occupied, was very marked ; here, although obviously enjoying themselves, these folk were perfectly well behaved,

I went through the banqueting-hall, the reception-rooms, and the throne-room, all of which were of large size and decorated in the most sumptuous manner. The doors were made of glass, which gave a sort of crystal effect to the surroundings, which, in its way, was quite effective. The furniture, of a massive kind, was all imported from Germany.

The purely Japanese decoration was, to my mind, superior to anything I saw which had been imported: for instance, the banqueting-hall, a room of more than five hundred square yards in area, had a ceiling decorated in gold combined in an artistic manner with different colours; its walls were covered with expensive silks. In one of the reception-rooms I noticed a really fine piece of tapestry more than forty feet long; it was said to have been made in one piece by a weaver in Kioto. Wood entered largely into the decorative work, and this had been cleverly worked up with lacquers in a manner perfectly inimitable. All the panels were decorated with a distinctive design either embossed or painted. The walls of the rooms were chiefly covered with brocade, while those of the passages were treated with a kind of embossed paper peculiar to Japan. I believe the making of this paper forms a large and in-

succeeded to the throne, Japan and its institutions were governed on the feudal system ; the Emperor was a mere figure-heard, and practically a prisoner. All the power of administration rested with the Shoguns, or feudal lords, who ruled different provinces. When the Japanese awoke to the necessity of reform, their alternatives were to continue the system then prevailing or to unite into one powerful nation by concentrating all the power in the person of the Emperor. Owing to differences among the people on this important point, a sanguinary revolution took place, the result of which was the restoration of the Emperor to his proper place and functions. On this taking place, the Shoguns abandoned their assumed rights and truculent attitude. Some of the Shoguns now hold important posts in the government of the country, and are perfectly loyal and obedient to their Emperor. From the political, social, and economical point of view, the happy results of the change are now evident to the whole world. The Imperial dynasty of Japan is the oldest existing, it being possible to trace a direct line of descent for the past 2,500 years.

My next step was to see the palace itself, the opportunity being one never likely to occur again.

The theory of the "Divine right" of Kings is exemplified to the fullest extent in Japan, where the Emperor's person is considered a sacred thing, and whose photograph is not permitted to be sold. All classes of society, from the highest to the lowest, practically worship their ruler, whose person embodies all that is holy and saint-like in their religious and social estimation. Of course, it is impossible to know to what extent the present prosperous and intellectual position of Japan is due to the Emperor's personality; and it is equally difficult to ascertain to what extent he, personally, directs the destinies of the nation over which he rules. This much, however, is known, *viz.* that no measure is adopted, and nothing of an important nature is effected, without his knowledge and sanction. His Majesty is well supported by able and experienced Ministers, and recourse to the advice of the so-called "Elder Statesmen" is always made when important matters are to be discussed. It may be added here that the "Elder Statesmen" comprise some of the most distinguished reformers to whom is largely due Japan's present position among the world's nations.

Forty years ago, when the present Emperor

Park, about five miles distant. There I found myself in the midst of a fashionable gathering. The first part of the programme was devoted to European instrumental music, the performers being Japanese under the bâton of an Austrian *chef d'orchestre*. The execution was distinctly high class and altogether creditable to those who participated in it. The band formed part of the Imperial private establishment, hence it was known as the Imperial Orchestra. A number of accomplished amateurs also took part in the concert.

The second part consisted entirely of Japanese singing and instrumental music. The singing is hard to describe; but it may be said to consist largely of trills, and it appeared to be executed in the minor key, accompanied by numerous facial contortions. I was told that the performance I am now endeavouring to describe was of a classical character; but it was noticeable that the more classical the music became, the more difficult it was for the Europeans present to restrain their laughter!

My visit to Tokio having now come to an end, it only remained for me to bid goodbye to Sir C. MacDonald and his wife, and to thank

exercises were executed with lightning-like rapidity and precision.

It may be mentioned here that the Japanese Army, although ranking with any in the world, is run on most economical lines; the frugality of the officers' and men's living renders this possible, and a state of high efficiency is nevertheless maintained.

The following is a scale of pay given to officers and soldiers in the Japanese Army:

General	7,500	yen ¹	per annum
Lieutenant-General .	6,000	"	"
Major-General . . .	5,700	"	"
Colonel	3,600	"	"
Lieutenant-Colonel .	2,700	"	"
Major	1,950	"	"
Captain	1,350	"	"
Lieutenant . . .	900	"	"
2nd Lieutenant . .	630	"	"
Warrant Officer . .	36.66	yen	per month
Sergeant-Major . .	18	"	"
Colour-Sergeant . .	12	"	"
Sergeant	9	"	"
Corporal	3	"	"
1st Private	2.8	"	"
2nd Private	2	"	"

After lunch I went to a concert at the Ueno

¹ 1 yen equals about Rs. 1/8/o.

me on arrival, and the customary offerings of tea and cakes were made in their mess, which, although unpretentious, was an evidently well-arranged institution. As was always the case in Japan, everything about the place was spick and span ; absolute cleanliness prevailed everywhere.

Apropos of this subject, I was told that messes are now being established in connection with some of the regiments, after the European fashion ; so far, however, the officers' affection for their beloved chop-sticks has not been alienated to the advantage of the more modern knife and fork. Surrounding a large quadrangle, in which the troops drilled, were a number of three-storied buildings ; these formed the living-quarters of the men. The barracks did not differ materially from similar places in Europe. The men's beds were ranged along the room, and their weapons and accoutrements were neatly disposed of on convenient shelves fastened to the wall. I also inspected the stores of spare clothing, etc., etc., and found all things in a state of excellent order.

At my request the Commanding Officer put two companies through their drill in the quadrangle. The men could not have been smarter, especially in the manual drill, while their firing and other

native to the country appeared to be in a state of transition, and the foreign, or Western system, as well as a certain amount of harmony, was introduced to an extent sufficient to make its presence noticeable without destroying the original. Saturday, the day of my visit, was a half-holiday, and as I happened to be there at twelve o'clock, I witnessed a scene of much animation, when the girls, of all ages from tiny mites of five to well-grown maidens of seventeen, dispersed to their homes. The kaleidoscopic mass of colour in their dainty costumes, as well as the vivacity of their laughter and appearance, made up a picture in which colour and animation were the predominating notes. Some of the girls had come provided with their breakfast or lunch, which was carried in little boxes about the size of an ordinary chocolate box, each of which contained the indispensable chopsticks and the equally important rice cakes and fish. These viands the girls disposed of on the spot with evident appetite.

I had heard much about the barracks of the Imperial Guards, and after I had seen all there was to be seen at the Peeresses' School, I went to the living-quarters of the Japanese Corps d'Elite with Colonel Hume. Some of the superior officers met

JAPANESE GIRLS AT A MEAL.

(Facing p 128.



The day after I visited the institution called the Peeresses' School, where the young daughters of the aristocracy and nobility are educated ; all sorts of subjects were being taught, and the training imparted appeared to be of a comprehensive and thorough character. The English and Japanese lady superintendents were good enough to conduct me to all the different departments, and they explained the system on which the work was carried out. The drawing-class was particularly meritorious, and the work turned out of a high order : there I was presented with two specimens of the pupils' skill, both of which I was gratified to receive. These up-to-date Japanese maidens were even learning to dance in the Western fashion ! It was most interesting to notice the difference between the dance of the West and that practised usually by the Japanese ; the latter was also being taught, and was, of course, much more intricate than the other.

The singing class was decidedly attractive, and the pupils displayed much aptitude. It is rather difficult to describe the kinds of music and singing which were being taught at this school, but perhaps I can make it more clear by saying that the music

carriage and a 'rickshaw as well as the train. The day was miserably cold and wholly unfavourable to good shooting. Permission to shoot over this preserve is sometimes accorded by the Emperor to distinguished guests, but not always.

Count Toda, Master of the Imperial Hunt, and some of his assistants met me on arrival, and we lost no time in getting to work. Several beats were organised, but luck was not my way that day, and I had not even the chance of firing off my gun at a pheasant. The birds were very scarce, and Colonel Hume was the sole one who killed ; his bag amounted to only two pheasants and one woodcock.

Lunch over (at which meal my hosts were my guests), we again tried our luck with the pheasants, with no better results, and, to make matters more disappointing, rain began to fall, upon which we gave up the idea of further shooting. My ill-fortune did not desert me, for on our return journey my 'rickshaw capsised and precipitated me on to the road, which was covered with mud. I extricated myself as best I could, and, covered with slush, resumed the journey ; finally our hotel was reached late at night, and so ended the only really disappointing day I spent in Japan.

exodus, and gave the opportunity for changing ponies ; the latter were gaily caparisoned, and the general appearance of the players reminded one of Spanish matadors. The game lasted about two hours in all. I enjoyed the novelty of the game very much, and on its termination I drove to the Tokio Club, to which I had been elected. There I amused myself by playing billiards with Baron Rosen, the Russian Minister, who, by the way, I had not much difficulty in disposing of. Nemesis, however, awaited me in the person of Captain Trowbridge, British Naval Attaché, who played a splendid game.

The Tokio Club is largely patronised by the European diplomats and by some of the Japanese officials. The club for the purely Japanese aristocracy is called the Nobles' Club, and foreigners are not elected to it. After dinner I visited the Shiba Park Club, where I saw some very interesting dances by *geishas*, which were said to be of the highest order in their category of dances.

At an early hour on November 27 I went, accompanied by Colonel Hume, pheasant-shooting in one of the Imperial preserves. The journey of four hours was most tedious, and involved the use of the

and for this purpose the teams are maintained at Court expense.

The game was played in an enclosure near the seashore in one of the Imperial parks. The arrangement of the polo-ground was such as to give the spectators an excellent view of the game. The usual formalities of receiving me on behalf of the Emperor by the Master of Ceremonies and the Master of Horse were gone through, and the game commenced.

The game itself is totally different from English polo. The players in the opposing teams wear different-coloured costumes, of a pattern prevailing in feudal times, and each player is armed with a kind of bat, with which he endeavours to drive the ball into one of a series of holes, with which a structure like a target is perforated. The opposing team try to prevent this, and endeavour to divert the ball. Each time a player succeeded in placing a ball in one of the holes a goal was scored to the credit of his team, and as a sort of forfeit, the opposing team were obliged to dismount and retire from the arena afoot. Each round lasted for about ten minutes, after which a short rest was indulged in. The scoring of a goal was the signal for a general

be decided by a reference to the Minister of the Imperial Householder, who possesses the right to decide all matters of social etiquette.

In all there were about forty guests, and to me fell the honour of escorting the Baroness Sannomiya to dinner. The *pièce de résistance* was a polau made by my own cook, who had come from India with me; his culinary efforts were much appreciated by all present, particularly by the Japanese guests. At the proper time I proposed the health of the Japanese Emperor in a short speech, and in response Baron Komura gave the health of our King Emperor. The band played the respective national anthems, and needless to say both toasts were most cordially responded to by all present. Baron Sannomiya then proposed my health, making at the same time a neat little speech, for which I returned thanks as usual. A Japanese military band played a good selection of music during and after dinner.

The next day we were invited to witness a game of Japanese polo; the game was specially got up for my edification by order of the Emperor. Polo in Japan is a relic of feudal times, when it was commonly played by the nobles. It is now revived for the amusement of important visitors,

and the entire absence of drunkenness and rowdiness in any form was a pleasing feature of the show.

Near this popular resort stands the famous Temple of Kwannon, the Goddess of Mercy. A curious feature of this and other temples in Japan is the free use the people made of them for purposes other than worship. The whole temple presented a curious medley when we saw it: birds were flying in and out; men were smoking; some were lying down or sleeping; merchants were driving bargains; while at the same time some of the people were worshipping. The sight was a curious one, and made one feel that temples have other uses than, as we understand it, for worship.

Being desirous of celebrating the anniversary of my birthday in a befitting manner, I invited a number of people to dine with me at the hotel. Among others, my guests included Sir Claude and Lady MacDonald, Baron Komura, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Baron and Baroness Sannomiya (the latter an English lady and a great favourite in Tokio society), and the Baron von Erckert, of the German Legation; there were also a number of friends of different nationalities present. The matter of precedence was full of difficulty, and could only



TONOSAWA HOT SPRINGS, HAKONE DISTRICT.

[Facing p. 132.

with on the French Riviera ; the views obtainable from its windows would rival or excel anything to be seen in the South of Europe. The Japanese portion, where the Imperial Family reside, was, as usual, devoid of furniture. We regretfully turned our faces from these fascinating surroundings, and wended our way homewards, and reached Myanoshita at dusk.

The second day of our stay at Myanoshita was remarkable chiefly for the badness of the weather. Rain fell in torrents, and this, coupled with the fact that I was not feeling particularly well, decided me to remain indoors the whole day. The day after we went by the eleven o'clock train to Nagoya, and on the way got quite the best view obtainable of the famous Fujjiya Mountain. Nagoya was reached after a tiresome journey at 9.30 p.m., where we put up at a small hotel.

Nagoya is one of the chief provincial towns in Japan ; it possesses several manufactories, and gives one the idea of prosperity. It has a large permanent garrison. Having only a few hours at my disposal, I limited sightseeing to a visit to the old castle, said to be the finest specimen of the old feudal castle in the country. This place is inaccessible to

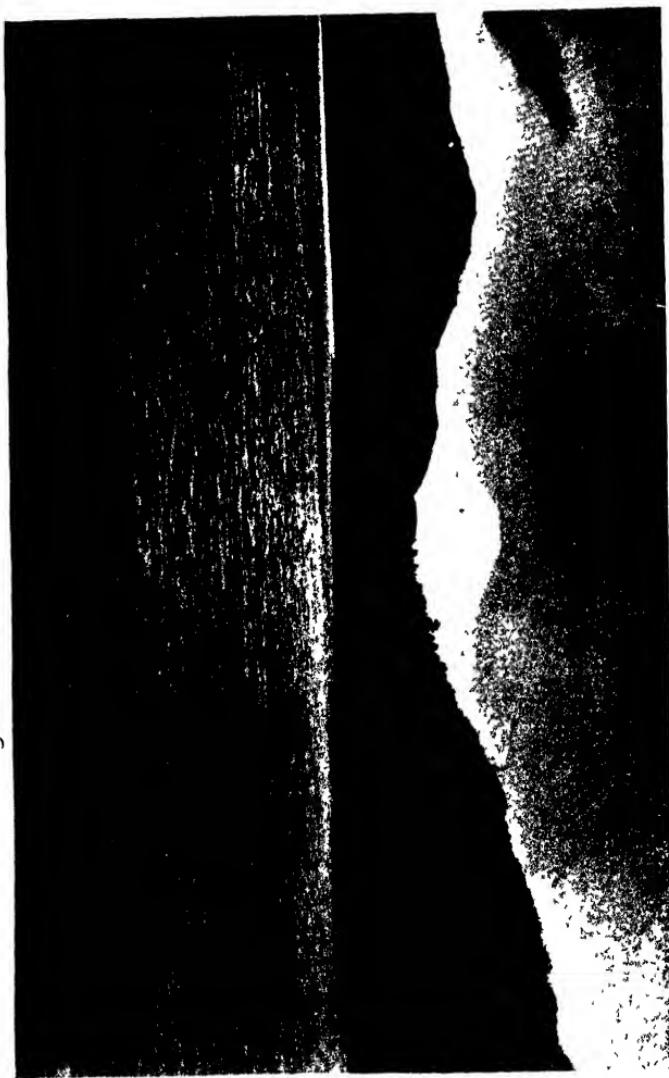
a half hours. *En route* we passed some beautiful valleys, and were interested to see a number of hot mineral springs, to which people suffering from various diseases go for relief.

A glance from the window of the Japanese inn revealed the lake spread out, as it were, at our feet. Surrounding it on all sides were high hills; but most magnificent of all was Mount Fujiya, which reared its splendid head thirteen thousand feet high, and towered above all about it. Its shape is almost perfectly symmetrical, and resembles a cone or a pyramid. A reflection of the mountain in the still water of the lake added, if possible, more beauty to the scene. From the top, down to about six thousand feet, the peak was covered with glittering eternal snow, the reflection of the sun from which almost dazzled one.

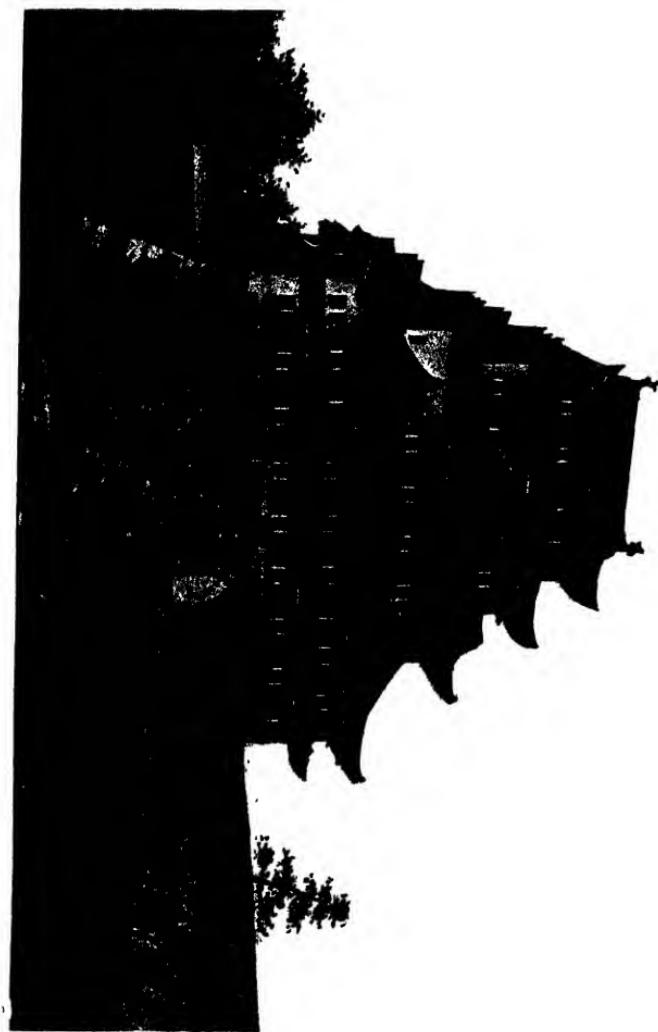
After lunching and admiring the scene for a time, we proceeded afoot to a small hillock, on which is situated the Summer Palace, where I was told that the Imperial Family resort during the warm weather; the Emperor, however, has been known to visit the place but once. The palace is divided into two parts—Japanese and European—the latter resembling a palatial *châlet* of the kind one is familiar

THE LAKE OF HAKONE.

[Facing p. 134.



THE CASTLE OF NAGOYA.



[*Facing p. 136.*

some dating many centuries back. A corridor led us to the so-called "Ko-Gosho," in which are three rooms all comparatively modern ; they were decorated in bright colours, and were used for meetings of minor importance. Three hours only were at my disposal for inspecting the palaces, but to have done them thoroughly would have occupied at least a whole day. At the conclusion of the visit to the palaces we went to see a Japanese school of fencing. Men, women, and children go in for this graceful and healthy exercise. The system of escrime in Japan is, like most other things there, totally different from that of any other country ; their sticks are longer and more unwieldy, and at each point or lunge the combatants gave vent to a curious little whoop. It is odd to note that although Japan is abreast of the world in the matter of military science, weapons, etc., the people keep up their old style of fencing, wrestling, and athletic sports, merely to provide suitable exercise, and partly, in all probability, to prevent themselves from wholly losing touch with their ancient customs.

After *déjeuner* on the 5th at the Yami Hotel (the largest in Kioto), we drove to see the Imperial garden of Katsura-no-rikyu, a perfectly representative speci-

them in these respects strong contrasts with the palaces in Tokio. A visitors' book at the entrance afforded me an opportunity of recording my name. Large notices in the hall announced that smoking was prohibited, and that overcoats and umbrellas were to be left behind. Shoes also had to be removed at the entrance, but, as a special case, I was allowed to retain mine, with the addition of a large pair of outer slippers.

The palaces occupy a space covering an area of no less than about twenty-six acres, and six gates afford access to the interior. Formerly a number of smaller buildings existed outside the palaces themselves, but within the outer enclosures; in these buildings the nobles resided. In some portions of the palaces, which were formerly used exclusively by the Sovereign, Shinto festivals are now held. Sliding doors, which looked as if they were made of paper, were covered with beautiful paintings executed by some of the best artists. Here, also, we saw the Emperor's throne—a canopied structure covered with fine silk of many colours.

The next place we saw was called the Seriyoden; in this place were many paintings, the originals of

wants exhibited by the management could not have been exceeded.

During the night a heavy fall of snow took place, and on rising in the morning, everything was covered with a beautiful mantle of white. A portion of the city is visible from the hotel, as also are some of the mountains in the vicinity. So far, Western influences have not made their way to this place, which remains purely Japanese in consequence ; it has, therefore, much more of interest to the sightseer from other lands than cities like Tokio and others, which, for some years past, have been subjected to the persistent influence of the West.

Formerly Kioto was the principal city of the Empire ; but notwithstanding the fact that the Emperor resides here for a portion of each year, the city has waned in importance and now ranks second to Tokio. Commercially and industrially, however, Kioto still holds premier place, for it is here that the best class of Japanese goods are made and sold. My time was unfortunately limited, but I determined to make the most of it, and commenced immediately after breakfast by visiting two of the Imperial palaces. Both places were purely Japanese in style and furnishing, making

the general public, and to see it a letter from one of the Legations or Consulates is necessary. Originally there were two moats, both of which are now allowed to remain dry, and which now serve for the extensive barrack accommodation required by the garrison. The apartments inside are well worth seeing, as the decorations are of the highest form of Japanese art. The sliding doors of the rooms and alcoves are profusely decorated with pictures of flowers, tigers, birds, cherry-blossom, etc., nearly all done by some of the most renowned artists the country has produced. An interesting well is there, the water from which is called the "Golden Water," because gold was said to have been added to the well to improve the quality of the water. The buildings run to five storeys, from the top of which a fine and extensive view of the town and the sea, as well as of some mountains, is obtainable.

Leaving Nagoya in the evening, we reached Kioto the same night, and put up at the Myako Hotel, pleasingly situated on the top of a small hill. This hotel is built entirely of wood, and has no pretensions to architectural beauty; it was, nevertheless, most comfortable to live in, and we found the food good; the courtesy and attention to our



THE RAPIDS OF KAISURA GAVA



TYPICAL JAPANESE TEA-HOUSES.

(Facing p. 140)

men of Japanese landscape gardening of the best kind. The style was most effective, and included artificial pools, miniature bridges, stepping-stones, trees cut and trained in fantastic shapes, and many other things equally curious and effective. The garden was well maintained, but the same cannot be said of the buildings, most of which were in a more or less tumble-down state.

On our return we saw the great temple called Nishihongwanji, one of the newest temples extant. The contrast between this and other places of the same kind was very great, owing to its newness, which time has not yet obliterated. I was shown about by a young head-priest, who, strange to say, had received about three years' education at Oxford. He imparted the further information that he had spent some time in India, and was present at Delhi last year during the great Darbar.

The 6th was entirely occupied in making an excursion to the rapids of Katsura Gava. The first part of the journey was by train, and took up no less than three hours; the route took us through lovely mountain scenery, and skirting the railway were the rapids, which rushed along through and over enormous boulders and stones. Great engineering difficulties

had to be overcome in the construction of this line, and the nature of the country passed through necessitated the making of many tunnels. At the termination of the railway journey we alighted, and then proceeded to shoot the rapids in a boat. The bed of the stream was very rocky, and as we shot up and down with the motion of the boat, we found the experience a most exciting one. The stream continued for about thirteen miles between steep hills and through scenery of the prettiest kind.

Rashiyama was reached after two hours' tempestuous tossing about ; it is a favourite summer resort, with the usual assortment of tea-houses and inns. The scene must be an exceptionally fine one when the cherry-tree is in full bloom, so much so that at the right season many thousand people congregate there for no other purpose than to admire the wonderful sight of all the trees in full bloom ; the sight is one not to be witnessed in any other country in the world. We took tea, amidst the most fascinating surroundings, at the house of the Buddhist Archbishop of Kioto ; his house is perhaps the best specimen of the purely Japanese country residence.

Our return journey was accomplished by carriage,

and on the way we had a glimpse of two theatres, at which performances of a unique kind, but quite incomprehensible to us, were in full swing. The Japanese are as much in earnest in the matter of acting as they are in other things, and on this occasion it was easy to see that those participating in the performance did so as if their lives depended on its being well done.

Street life in Kioto at night is one of its great attractions: the roads lighted up by paper lanterns, the busy shops, and the smiling, happy crowd make up a scene unequalled as a spectacle, and never to be forgotten because of its unique features.

The whole of December 7 I devoted to shopping; I went to all the big emporiums, where a large variety of articles indigenous to Japan can be seen in great profusion. At this place one finds the best class of goods in the country, and at each shop I went to a bewildering array of silks, brocades, enamel work, bronzes of all kinds and sizes were placed before me. Of all such things and many others I made extensive purchases. By the time I left these delightful shops I was richer in the world's goods, but much lighter in pocket. The exchange, however, was not regretted by me,

The museum possessed a most varied collection of all kinds of things indigenous to the country; one thing in particular struck me as being very curious, owing to dissimilarity with present-day design. I refer to the old palanquin, made to be carried by men, and some old vehicles arranged for bullock draught, in which the Emperor in old times used to perform his journeys. Nowadays he travels by fast express train, surrounded by every luxury that modern invention has devised.

On December 9 I went to Nara, where the usual reception by the Governor and police officers took place at the station. After lunch at a semi-Japanese inn, I went sightseeing in this ancient town, which, hundreds of years ago, was the capital of Japan. First I inspected the famous Art Museum, and then drove through a lovely park in which were avenues of fine shady trees, and where hundreds of tame deer were roaming about. These, animals are so tame that when visitors approached, large numbers of them immediately came forward to be fed. Hawkers sell bread in the vicinity, with which one is expected to feed the animals, which frequently commence fighting in their eagerness to get the coveted bread. To

protect visitors from the deer it became necessary to cut their horns, and this practice is regularly carried out. The park is one of great natural beauty; indeed, I think it the most beautiful I have ever seen. Fine, well-kept roads go right through it, and here and there a shrine is visible.

In another part of Nara I saw a temple which contained a huge image of Buddha—quite the largest in Japan. It stands fifty-three and a half feet high, and is entirely made of bronze. The face alone of the image is sixteen feet long and nine feet broad. The image is in a sitting posture, with the legs crossed, and the look of profound meditation common to all such images in the East is specially noticeable. The date of the casting is 749 A.D.

My day had been most interesting, but nevertheless wearying, and I was glad to reach Kioto in time for a well-earned dinner.

The afternoon of the 10th was occupied in seeing another Imperial garden some miles away from Kioto. There we found three small tea-houses built for the use of the Imperial Family when they visited the place. The garden, beautifully

situated, was a good example of what the Japanese can do in the matter of landscape effects.

The Geisha School is well worth a visit. There the fascinating *geisha* is taught the clever art of pleasing and other elegant accomplishments, such as singing and dancing, as well as floral decoration. The primary lesson to be learnt by the budding *geisha* is to be pleasing in manner, and particularly so in the company of the opposite sex. The school comprises a number of rooms, each of which is devoted to the teaching of a different subject. For instance, in one room we saw the tiny children learning to dance; in another they were having lessons in instrumental music, and so on. The education of these children commences at a very early age, and is always conducted by elderly women. The pupils appeared to be of all ages from the smallest to fully grown young women.

One of the sights of Kioto, or indeed of the whole of Japan, is a dance known as the *Miyako-o-dori*, which is usually performed in the spring-time, when Nature revives after the winter. The dance is probably symbolical of some such resuscitation, as it is indulged in only when the winter is over and the leaves reappear. I felt disappointed to think that

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GEISHAS HOLIDAY-MAKING



my visit to Japan, being in the autumn, would probably deprive me of the enjoyment of one of the best sights in the country. Moreover, my imagination had been fired by hearing many descriptions of this dance, and finally I found the temptation to witness it so strong that with the help of influential people I set to work to overcome the conservative prejudice of our Japanese friends to anything out of season, and finally managed to arrange the matter satisfactorily. This was, however, done only after much difficulty. The dance came off with great *éclat* in one of the best tea-houses in the place. A special selection of the best and most charming *geishas* was made, and the place was profusely decorated with bunting and lanterns of divers patterns and colours. Some thoughtful person even went so far as to add my coat-of-arms, as a decorative item to the lanterns.

One end of the room was arranged with a number of luxurious cushions, placed on the floor for the accommodation of myself and party. After we had taken our places the dance began.

The first item was a general advance by the whole *corps de ballet* to a position in front of our seats; the dancers made the usual graceful salutation, and retired for some distance backwards towards their musicians,

who, by the way, were of their own sex, but of more advanced age.

The dance resolved itself into a series of postures and gesticulations, all of which were the very acme of graceful movement and delightful to witness. The great charm, to our minds, was, of course, the total difference between the dance, so-called, we were then seeing and a dance of the West. Whereas in the latter countries men and women dance with their legs, in Japan, as in most Oriental countries, the dance consisted of a number of movements made with the hands, arms, and bodies. As a matter of fact the feet had the least important part to play. A number of complicated evolutions were gone through, each of which was supposed to represent some phase of life in the spring of the year. After each figure of the dance the *geishas* retired for about ten minutes, during which time others came to us and offered refreshments.

The costumes of the *geishas* are deserving of notice here; they were of numerous and brilliant colours, and gave the wearers the appearance of dainty little butterflies as they moved in and out, to and fro, in the dance. The grand finale took the form of a dance, in which each girl had the flag of a different nation.

Even my Kapurthala flag had not been forgotton, and loud were the cries of Indo-Banzai when the show came to an end. So ended a most enjoyable evening, during which I witnessed an entirely novel and unique form of gaiety.

The 11th of December was spent in making an excursion to Lake Biwa, about two hours' drive. The lake is a large one, surrounded by low hills, near which a number of picturesque villages are visible. The whole scene forms quite a panorama, and was well worth a visit. Lake Biwa derives its name from a real or supposed resemblance to the shape of a guitar; it is approximately the same size as the Lake of Geneva, and it stands about 350 feet above sea level. There are a few small islands in the lake, which is said to owe its origin to an earthquake which occurred many centuries ago.

Our return journey was effected in boats, which took us through a canal, the making of which involved a lot of difficult tunnelling through the mountains. The flourishing town of Otsu is on the south bank of the lake, and there artistic and beautiful pottery of a special kind is made. The tunnels referred to are of considerable length, and

for a portion of the journey we travelled in complete darkness ; every now and again we emerged into daylight and found ourselves surrounded by the most beautiful scenery imaginable.

The length of the canal is about fifteen miles, and its width approximated fifty feet. The whole is an engineering feat of no mean order. Not only does it furnish a waterway for the conveyance of goods and passengers, but it also forms part of an irrigation project by which a portion of the adjacent country is supplied with water.

Mirza Ali Asgar Atabek-i-azam, the ex-Prime Minister of Persia, who, for political reasons, has been lately obliged to leave that country, was staying here on his way around the world. He, with his son and a friend, were my guests at dinner that night, and I fully availed myself of the opportunity thus presenting itself of reviving my old knowledge of the beautiful Persian tongue. My Indian cook prepared a number of savoury dishes, which met with high approval from my guests, who declared that they had enjoyed nothing so much in the way of food since their departure from Persia, where, they said, the cooking bore much resemblance to that they were then enjoying.

We departed from Kioto on the morning of the 12th for Osaka, where we arrived in an hour's time. Osaka has aptly been styled the Birmingham of Japan because of its pre-eminence in manufactures. After lunch at a comfortable hotel, which was specially built for the accommodation of visitors to the great Industrial Exhibition held here last year, we started on a round of visits.

There is a large garrison of Japanese troops, and the place is of considerable military importance. First we saw the Imperial Mint, which was originally started by Englishmen, but is now worked entirely by Japanese. The director took me all over this immense establishment, which I found to be larger than any similar place in India. The machinery and system of working are of the most modern description, and we thought the process of making gold and silver coins most interesting. These were being produced at the rate of 40,000,000 yen in silver coin and 10,000,000 yen in gold per annum. It also interested us to learn that a sort of National Reserve Fund amounting to many million yen was kept there for national purposes in case of sudden emergency.

From the Mint we proceeded to the Military

Arsenal, the most important in Japan. The chief director was awaiting me in the reception-room ; the different officers in charge of the branches of the Arsenal were there presented to me. Thence I was conducted by an officer (who spoke French acquired during two years' residence in France) over the huge establishment, a cursory inspection of which took up more than two hours ; a whole day, however, could easily have been spent there, had time permitted. The processes involved in the making of rifles, ammunition, field-guns, siege-guns, torpedoes, shells, etc., etc., are of the most complicated kind, and require expert and specialised knowledge to describe properly. Such knowledge is not mine ; and although I am incapable of doing justice to the technical side of this wonderful place, I cannot withhold my tribute of admiration of the marvellous grasp of mechanics, etc., palpably displayed by these Japanese ! I saw some large guns of thirty to forty feet in length, and worth £15,000 to £20,000, being made. I was told that such a gun cost about £100 for each shot fired out of it. The very guns I saw being made are probably now being used against the Russians in Manchuria, with deadly effect.

The Arsenal employs about four thousand workmen, and at the time of my visit the men were working from six o'clock in the morning till ten at night, the long hours and high pressure doubtless indicating some prescience as to events to follow on the part of the Japanese Government.

In point of equipment, machinery, and appliances the Japanese Arsenal, although on a smaller scale, makes a good comparison with the Armstrong, Krupp, and the Creusot firms in Europe. It is only a few years ago that Japan sent to Europe for all her guns, ships, and warlike stores; nowadays in this respect she is self-supplying in all these things, with the exception of ships of the larger sizes. In respect of these, too, great strides have been made by the local builders, and a short time will see Japan in a perfectly independent position in this matter, as she already is in so many others. In addition to the foregoing, Japan also possesses a large naval arsenal and ship-building yards.

We left Osaka by the evening train, and reached Kobe in time for dinner. This was my last night in Japan.

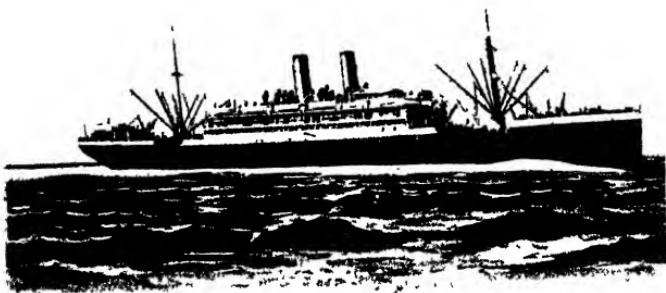
The following day, December 13, I spent in

roaming about the picturesque streets and shops of Kobe. I also saw a cascade, which forms one of the attractions of the place, and had tea at a pretty little tea-house near by.

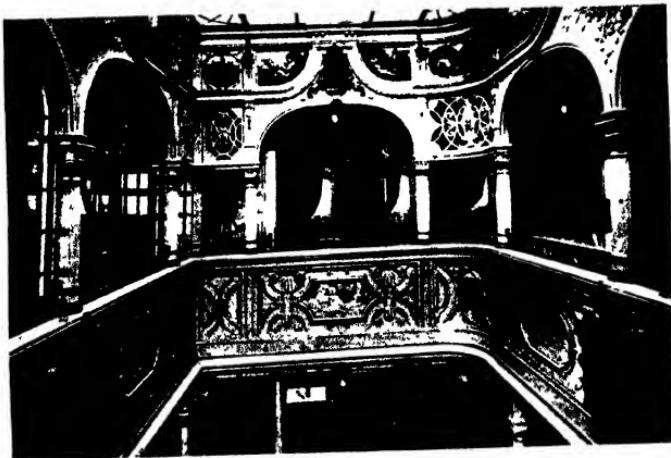
At midnight we sailed in the s.s. *Koenig Albert*, of the Norddeutscher Line.

The *Koenig Albert* is one of the largest and finest steamers plying in Eastern waters ; she is more than eleven thousand tons' burthen. The dining-room, ladies' saloon, music-room, etc., are all commodiously and elaborately fitted up ; the former has a good collection of fine oil paintings of some of the old castles of Germany. The accommodation allotted to my use was excellent ; it consisted of a bedroom and a miniature sitting-room *en suite*, while the addition of a bath-room near by made my comfort complete. The luxurious nature of my surroundings caused me to make mental comparisons with the accommodation provided by, and which one is sometimes forced to accept at the hands of, the autocratic P. & O. Co.

After the foregoing description of the accommodation provided for me in a ship "made in Germany," it is needless to say that the comparison was not flattering to the P. & O. The food supplied was



SS KÖLNIG ALBERT



INTERIOR OF SS KÖLNIG ALBERT

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excellent in quality, although one missed the little culinary refinements common on the French boats. A good string band enlivened things at dinner-time. Notwithstanding the superior accommodation and the size of the steamer, the number of passengers, who were chiefly American and German, was small. I was told that these steamers, eastward bound, seldom carried a full complement of passengers. Captain Polacek was a jovial giant of six feet four inches, whose geniality and amusing stories were never-ending. The other officers, although courteous, adhered so strictly to their duties that one seldom saw them on deck or fraternising with the passengers. The promenade deck of this ship is unusually commodious, and formed a splendid place for exercise.

The day of our departure we traversed the wonderful and beautiful Inland Sea of Japan, which in reality forms a sea within an island, as the latter is within a sea. The whole of the Inland Sea is dotted about with numerous islands, and the passage between them is sometimes so narrow that two ships can hardly pass one another ; this renders navigation at once difficult and dangerous. The Japanese declare that several thousand of these volcanic islands exist in the Inland

Sea, and as numerous villages are to be seen on them, as well as trading-boats plying between them, it is to be assumed that they are of some importance to the people. Evening brought us to the end of this wonderful sea; and as the headlands narrowed as we approached Shimonoseki the scenery became increasingly romantic and full of grandeur.

Early on the morning of December 15 we reached Nagasaki in heavy rain. On going ashore, I lunched with Mr. and Mrs. Laird at the Nagasaki Hotel; the former is British Consul.

We re-embarked during the afternoon, and I took a last lingering look, full of regret, at a land in which I had found much that was wonderful, much to admire, and to which my visit had been all too short. Time and circumstances may in future prove more kind, and may give me the opportunity of once more visiting this country, of which in so short a time I had become so fond.

The protection of Nagasaki harbour had evidently been thoughtfully planned and executed. A Russian fellow-passenger pointed out to me the heavy fortifications of the surrounding hills, and said there was reason to believe that the harbour was thickly mined

in addition. The Russian with whom I had been conversing assured me that he had travelled all over Japan without let or hindrance, but he suspected that he had been shadowed and that all his movements had been noted by the Japanese authorities.

IV

SHANGHAI

A STRONG head-wind the next day caused the vessel to roll and pitch a good deal, and in consequence I was confined to my cabin. On the 17th we touched Shanghai after a boisterous passage. As the steamer remained there for two full days, I went ashore and took up my quarters at the Astor House Hotel. The same evening the Shanghai amateurs gave a capital performance of *One Summer Day*; this I found most enjoyable.

On the 18th, after visiting one of the mixed tribunals, I went to see the prison adjoining the Court; and although owing to its being in the Foreign Settlement, its condition, and that of its inmates, was not so bad as perhaps otherwise it would have been, nevertheless the place bore no comparison to that I had recently seen in Japan: this remark applies both to condition and management.

There seemed to be a great lack of space, and

the wretched prisoners were huddled up in a place much too small for their requirements. Of course, in Shanghai the foreign Governments see that torture and such-like barbarities do not take place; but I was told that in the prisons in China the most hideous cruelties are still perpetrated.

After lunch I visited the Admiral of the British squadron in China, Sir Cyprian Bridge, on board his flagship the *Alacrity*. The Admiral received me most courteously, with full naval honours.

Being anxious to see a Chinese man-of-war, I made known my wish to Sir Cyprian, who was good enough to appoint his flag-lieutenant to accompany me, and placed his steam launch at my disposal. A Chinese cruiser of about four thousand to five thousand tons was anchored a few miles off, and to this we made our way. The vessel was commanded by a Chinese officer holding the rank of commodore, who had been to England for his training. He was most attentive, and took me all over his ship, which, contrary to my expectation, I found in a state of admirable cleanliness and efficiency. One foreigner only was on board, an Englishman, who held the position of gunnery instructor.

The Chinese marines, who formed the guard of honour on my arrival and departure, wore a modified naval uniform of a blue colour; their pig-tails were neatly coiled on the tops of their heads, and these were surmounted by a sort of small black turban. The Chinese navy was, as every one knows, depleted by their war with the Japanese, and their losses then do not appear to have been made good since, as at present their whole naval force consists of a few vessels of moderate size, such as the one I had just visited. The commodore honoured me on my departure by ordering a salute to be fired. This was an unusual proceeding, because of the large number of guns for my salute as compared with a maximum of three fired in honour of their chief naval, military, and civil dignitaries.

My experience would have been incomplete had I neglected to dine *à la Chinoise*, and my opportunity arrived in the shape of an invitation from two American friends to a Chinese dinner. In addition to the two Americans, a few Chinamen of rank sat with us. The whole dinner was placed at one time on the table; and although at first I felt some repulsion to the food placed before us,

this passed away immediately after a commencement had been made. Bird's-nest soup, as well as a preparation of duck, and the bread I found to be really good. Chopsticks were used instead of knives and forks, and after the first clumsiness of manipulation had been overcome, they did not seem to be as awkward to manage as I anticipated.

Chinese custom rules that a singing-girl should be placed between each two guests at a dinner of this kind, and to be in fashion our singing-girls were, of course, forthcoming. Each one sang a song at a proper time, which forcibly reminded me of the character of the songs of the hill districts of the Punjab: there was a distinct similarity between them. Customs differ in different countries. My readers may imagine the effect of a number of music-hall artistes placed symmetrically between the guests at a dinner-party, each singing her favourite ditty in turn. The singing-girl possesses a strong sense of duty, and they refused everything in the shape of food, etc., offered to them. They were, however, not above assisting the guests to anything they required. The girls were all of fair complexion and had black hair; they were distinctly good-looking of their kind, and were richly attired in fine costumes.

Although good-looking, they wholly lacked the charm of manner which is the undeniable attribute of the Japanese maiden.

East of Suez, Shanghai is, in my opinion, far and away the finest modern city. It possesses magnificent buildings, fine, well-kept roads, and in the matter of modern appliances, comforts, etc., is more up-to-date than any city in India.

The weather had turned bitterly cold, and a snowfall seemed to be imminent. *Apropos* of the matter of temperature, it appeared to be odd that although Shanghai is on about the same parallel of latitude as parts of the Punjab, the weather in the former place is infinitely colder than in the latter. The difference can only be accounted for by the exposure of Shanghai to the glacial winds which sweep down from the Siberian steppes and so lower the temperature.

We left on the morning of the 19th by steam launch for Wosung, where our steamer was anchored, and finally departed about ten o'clock. A few additional passengers were there embarked.

As we neared Hong-Kong the weather became more genial—a very acceptable change from the arctic conditions we had so lately experienced. The



TYPICAL CHINESE WOMEN.

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entrance to Hong-Kong harbour exhibits a fine panoramic view. The harbour is enclosed by surrounding hills, and partly for this reason is said to be one of the finest in the world. The admirable foresight of the British statesmen is there exemplified by having taken possession of one of the best natural harbours in the East, to be used, of course, as a coaling station and naval base in time of war. This was done, too, at a time when, in the estimation of the other nations, the place had an insignificant importance. As matters now stand, the British (owing to their foresight) possess a complete chain of naval bases extending from Suez to Hong-Kong. Their value in time of war cannot be over-estimated. We anchored off Kowlong at four in the afternoon, and, after much delay in getting ashore, proceeded to the Peak Hotel by funiculare (small railway).

On December 22 I went down from the Peak to pay a visit to Rear-Admiral Curzon-Howe on the flag-ship *Albion*, where I was received with full naval honours. I lunched with the Admiral and officers in the wardroom, and afterwards was shown over this really fine vessel—one of the latest and most powerful additions to the British China squadron. To be prepared for all eventualities, the British

maintain a strong naval force in these waters at all times. Just now, when anything may happen in the East, these vessels are maintained in a state of such efficiency and preparedness as to enable them to sail at any moment. The impression one gets by an inspection is that nothing is lacking either in equipment or personnel to fit these ships to play the part for which they are intended at any time.

On my return to Hong-Kong I visited Mr. May, the acting Governor, at Government House, and subsequently went for a stroll through the principal streets, some of which have really good European and Chinese shops, where a large variety of articles can be purchased.

Hong-Kong justly ranks as one of the finest of Eastern cities ; there are handsome public buildings, banks, places of amusement, etc., etc. Carriage traffic in the streets is impeded owing to the steepness of the streets ; in consequence, the bulk of the traffic is done by 'rickshaws and Chinese jhampans. The place appears to be built on rock, which slopes up rather sharply from the shore, and thus makes carriage traffic difficult. We dined with the Governor and Mrs. May, and afterwards went to a dance at

the City Hall, which was numerously attended by the principal residents and the officers of the men-of-war in the harbour. The building is large and well adapted for a dance or public entertainment.

On December 23 Admiral Curzon-Howe was good enough to place his steam launch at my disposal, and we went to Kowlong to catch our steamer once more.

Christmas Day on board was celebrated with full honours. A beautiful tree, profusely decorated and illuminated, was erected in the dining-saloon, and during the evening a real old-fashioned jollification in the German style took place. The band played a carefully chosen selection of appropriate hymns, and all present enjoyed themselves to the utmost.

Land appeared early on the 27th, and Singapore was reached at midday. There we found the difference in the temperature most marked, and the weather was quite tropical and humid. The obvious fertility of the soil and the greenness of the surrounding country reminded one forcibly of Ceylon.

Raffles Hotel was patronised during my stay; it is large and fairly comfortable. During the afternoon I went to see the Botanical Gardens, which, because of the richness of the soil and the moist,

warm atmosphere, are very fruitful in the matter of vegetation of all kinds. The place was attractively laid out and well maintained. It was my intention to have merely touched at this place with the object of catching a steamer to Java, but I found that no boat was available until January 1. This involved a delay of six days, during which we were obliged to content ourselves with driving about the parks and neighbourhood until the time of our departure.

I took the morning train on the 29th to visit Johore, an hour's journey only. On alighting, we took a ferry-boat, which in about ten minutes took us to our destination. Johore, an independent principality, situated on the extreme point of the Malay Peninsula, has so far succeeded in preserving its autonomy. The Federated Malay States, under their respective Sultans, are in its vicinity. The whole of the Malay Peninsula, with the Federated States, are practically under the British. Johore has acquired the title of the Monte Carlo of the East, and gambling is freely carried on, but is confined to the subjects of the Sultan, as, for unknown reasons, foreigners are forbidden to participate.

On landing at the jetty, I was met by one of the

Sultan's *aides-de-camp*, by name Captain Daoud, who, during the time he was in Australia, picked up, among other things Anglican, a pretty Australian wife. I was conducted by the *aide-de-camp* to the Johore Hotel, which is maintained by the State for the accommodation of guests and visitors.

The stupidity of the Chinese servants is proverbial, but I think the acme of thickheadedness was reached by one of the servants who was instructed to cool a bottle of mineral water. Instead of adopting the usual method of burying the bottle in ice, he took infinite pains to pulverise the latter into the smallest fragments, and then attempted to fill up the bottle with them. Such a lack of intelligence could hardly be surpassed in any country.

After a good breakfast, the *aide-de-camp* in attendance went about the place with me to show me the sights.

The Sultan's palace was the first place visited. There was nothing about it to justify the idea that it was anything but an ordinary comfortable sort of a residence. At the same time I saw the Sultan's three small sons, who are shortly leaving for England to be educated.

Before leaving the palace, I saw the State regalia,

which, among other jewels, comprised a collection of handsome gold and silver plate, the State insignia, and some foreign decorations.

Thence I drove about the place, and saw the State mosque and the jail. The Chinese and Malay towns were next visited, and struck me as being efficiently supervised. The natural tropical scenery lent a certain air of picturesqueness to the surroundings which the abundant foliage added to. Rubber is indigenous to Johore, and the largest portion of the State revenue is derived from that source. A number of European officers are in the Sultan's service, among whom are an engineer, a doctor, and a commandant of troops, which number about three hundred men; they are nearly all Pathans. One of their officers, a Punjabi, came to see me.

Shortly before my departure, His Highness the Sultan Ibrahim Ali Khan (who came from his country seat specially) paid me a visit. He is a very Anglified Prince, and was dressed in a white duck suit. His style is distinctly "horsey," and he is the hero of many adventures and accidents in connection with his favourite animals. On one occasion he received a kick on the mouth from a horse, and this deprived



THE SULTAN OF JOHORE.

From a photograph presented to the Author

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him of most of his teeth ; a false set is now worn, and, curious to relate, two of the upper and two of the lower front teeth have diamonds set in them, which, when he opens his mouth to laugh or to speak, shine brilliantly.

The Sultan has frequently visited Europe, and on this account, as well as others, we were soon on common ground and the best of friends. We found many things and people to discuss, and exchanged stories of a kind mutually interesting.

His Highness told me that it was his intention to pay another visit to Europe, and that he would remain there for two years. On my asking him how he succeeded in getting sanction to remain away for such a long time, he expressed surprise, and said the idea of asking any one had never occurred to him.

After a most enjoyable visit to Johore, we returned to Singapore in the evening, where, after dinner, we went to the Malay theatre. The performers were making efforts to play a Dutch piece. They succeeded in completely murdering it, and the attempt they made to adapt European music to Malay words was ludicrous in the extreme. The costumes were bad imitations of their originals, and

seemed to be designed with the view of a comic opera more than a serious play.

Rain on December 30 confined me indoors during the morning; but in the afternoon, in response to an invitation from the Sultan of Johore, I took tea with him in his Singapore palace. He has two palaces in Singapore—one large and another smaller. Both are handsomely furnished and decorated, and are situated in the midst of ornamental natural parks. He received me in what he chose to call his bachelor home, in which he spends a good deal of time. There I saw a number of his valuable racing-trophies, as well as some of his horses, most of which are exceptionally fine animals. He also possesses automobiles, with the working of which he is quite conversant.

The steamer on which I embarked for Java on December 31 was a wretched little tub of seven hundred tons, which, unluckily for me, carried a cargo of dried fish; consequently she was filled with vile smells. One other person comprised the passengers' list, if I omit the large crowd of Chinese and Malays who swarmed all over the boat, and who ate, slept, and bathed on deck, to our great discomfort.

The captain (a real sea-dog) and two of the officers were Englishmen; the former was particularly polite, and gave me the use of his cabin on the forward deck, where the smell of the fish was less penetrating. We tolerated the awful discomfort of our surroundings, and made ourselves as snug as circumstances permitted for the voyage, which, fortunately, was not protracted beyond two days. For the first time in my life I crossed the Equator; but, owing to the paucity of European passengers, there was an absence of the proceedings usual when a vessel crosses the line which imagination has drawn around the world. Moreover, we were so busy combating the smell of the fish that perhaps the Equator got less attention than it deserved.

Sharp squalls of wind and rain occasionally tempered the great heat; but as these lasted only for a short time, our discomfort was mitigated only to a certain extent. The whole of the second day we were in sight of land—small islands belonging to Holland.

V

NETHERLANDS INDIA

NETHERLANDS INDIA had always excited my curiosity, owing to the fact that it was the largest non-British colony in the East ; and as we neared Batavia on January 3, I was glad to think that my opportunity had come by which I could make comparisons and note differences. Holland ranks third as a colonising Power, and nowhere can her rule be seen to better advantage or more severely criticised than in Java. The whole of Sumatra, Borneo, and the Celebes are under Dutch *régime*, as also are numerous small islands near by. The total population of all aggregates the respectable figure of over forty million people. Of all these places Java is the most important, and possesses a density of population hardly exceeded by any other country in the world. This is apparent when, out of the forty millions mentioned, Java contains no less than twenty-five millions, or more than half.

Notwithstanding the fact that Holland has held her present colonies for several centuries, she has been constantly fighting with the indigenous races, and her wars with them have usually been of a sanguinary character. At the present day the Achinese in Sumatra occasionally give trouble to the Dutch authorities, the people being of a character more turbulent and aggressive than the inhabitants of Java, where peace and tranquillity now reigns. It may not be generally known, or the fact may now be forgotten by most people, that at the time Napoleon was overrunning Holland, the Dutch possessions were either taken over or were made over by pre-arrangement to the English, who retained them for about five years, and subsequently restored them to Holland when that country regained its independence.

There is much evidence to show that Java was part and parcel of what is now known as British India, at which time its people were followers of the Hindu religion. As the result of Mahomedan invasion, they eventually became followers of the Prophet, which they remain to this day, although it must be admitted that they are by no means orthodox in the observance of that religion. In the privacy of their

homes, the people to this day indulge in the worship of graven images, thus showing the effect of a habit inherited from one generation to another, and one which the Mahomedan religion has been incapable of wholly eradicating.

Our steamer reached Tandjong Priok at seven in the morning, whence, after twenty minutes in the train, we reached Batavia. We put up at the Hôtel des Indes, where the whole of an annexe had been set aside for my accommodation. The annexe was a large building, with lofty rooms, well adapted, as regards furniture, etc., to real comfort. The floors were paved with marble, and, as is the case everywhere in Java, the beds were of enormous size. It is no exaggeration to say that the bed provided for me measured 8 by 6 feet.

Shortly after our arrival our first meal was served, and this proved quite an interesting feature in our experiences. The meal itself is known as "Riz-tafel," meaning, literally, "rice table," and is served at one o'clock. All the courses were placed in front of one at the same time; they consisted of a kind of curried meat, chicken, fish, etc., etc., and with the aid of a soup-plate of generous dimensions, upon which a liberal quantity

of rice was placed, one helped oneself from the numerous dishes on the table in front.

After the meal most of the people disappear, the shops and places of business close, and for the time being a sort of *dolce far niente* feeling pervades everything and everybody in the place. At six o'clock, when the great heat is over, a kind of resurrection takes place, and signs of life once more become visible.

During the evening I went for a drive to get a general idea of my new surroundings. In the course of the drive I peeped into the barracks of the Dutch troops, and was much interested to observe their mode of living. Both the Dutch, European, and Native troops live and feed together; the natives are uniformed the same as the Dutch, even to their helmets. The total number of European and Native Dutch troops is about forty thousand.

The town is well designed and laid out; and although most of the buildings are unimposing one-storey affairs, they are massive and well constructed, and all are provided with roomy verandahs. The streets are well paved, and have foot-paths on both sides for the convenience of pedestrians. A military

band played a good selection of music in a large square called Waterloo Plein, to a numerous and appreciative gathering. At 7 p.m. (the usual hour for visiting) Mr. Fraser, the British Consul, came to see me. Mr. Fraser is a merchant in a large way of business. He took me to the "Harmonie," a civilians' club, where a string band played for the edification of a number of people who were making themselves happy with cool drinks and ices at small tables placed in the open air—a form of relaxation one longs for, but rarely gets in India, where the opportunities for such diversion are unlimited.

The crowd was a select one, and included some well-dressed ladies as well as Dutch officers in uniform. The club is a commodious, well-arranged place, with appropriate marble floors; it appeared to be a highly popular place of resort. Dinner was served at the hotel in the usual manner at nine o'clock, that being the usual dining-hour in Java.

I visited the museum the next morning. It contained a fine collection of articles—some ancient and others modern, as well as things illustrative of the arts and sciences practised in the Dutch East Indies. One feature of the collection interested

me greatly; it was the fine assortment of stone images which had been excavated from different parts of the island from time to time. These images were in all respects the same as those to be seen in Indian temples at this day. For instance, I recognised the image of Ganesha, also Shiva and Krishna; indeed, almost all the gods known to Hindu mythology appeared to be there.

From the presence of these images, and bearing in mind their great antiquity, as well as other circumstances, it is not difficult to infer that in the past ages Hinduism was the prevailing religion. That Hinduism had stamped itself on the people in the time gone by was further evidenced by the presence of numerous articles of domestic utility, such as pandans (betel-nut boxes), gold and silver dishes, and a number of other things all of a type and design used in our country; and the similarity, both as to appearance and use, I recognised immediately. Many of these things, apart from their value as curiosities, were precious intrinsically.

Next I visited the residence of the Governor-General, which I found to be an imposing building, well but plainly and substantially furnished. The marble floors common to that part of the world

were in evidence there. The reception-rooms were particularly spacious and lofty. This palace is, however, not used very often—indeed, only when the Governor comes down from Buitenzorg for a big reception or other function.

A feature of life in the country is the partial adoption, by Europeans, of the native dress, in which they spend a considerable portion of the day. It consists, in the case of women, of a sarong—otherwise a kind of loin cloth—and a sort of loosely fitting blouse. The former are sometimes fine specimens of local art and vary greatly in value. In this *deshabille* costume, and minus shoes, stockings, and hats, they go about all day; they even sit down to their midday meal in the diaphanous garments described, and only change into European clothing in the afternoon when they go out. Imagine the shocked expression that would spread over the features of an Anglo-Indian dame if it were suggested that such a costume should be adopted by the ladies in India to combat the exigencies of the climate!

My surprise on arrival was very great, and for some time it did not dawn on me that the fair-haired and blue-eyed women in the costume of the



THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S PALACE, BUITENZORG.

country were of European nationality. It is worthy of note that the Dutch seem to be the only European race which, after conquering a people of inferior capability, have to some extent adopted the customs of the latter as far as their mode of living is concerned. There one finds that not only do the Dutch wear the clothes common to the country, but they also bathe in the same way and, to a great extent, eat the same food as the people.

The system of passports is rigorously adhered to in this country, and one is obliged to present his card to be *viséed* within three days of his arrival.

I found the shops attractive in appearance and full of a variety of goods from nearly all the countries in Europe. This I found to be a superior arrangement to that prevailing in most of the big establishments in Bombay and Calcutta, where one is obliged to take things made mostly in England, or go without.

During my drive in the afternoon I was struck by the arrangements made by the Dutch for the separation of the living-quarters of the different races. One portion had been set aside for the exclusive use of the European community, another

for the Malays, still another for the Chinese. The Japanese, of whom there were a few, curiously, did not come under the category of Asiatics, and were permitted to live where they pleased. Being transient visitors, our nationality did not debar us from living in the European quarter !!!

The "Concordia" was next visited; this is the military club, and we found it even superior to the "Harmonie." I also saw the Town Hall, in which were a number of fine paintings of former governors.

Heavy rain was falling when we left on January 5 for Buitenzorg. I had a reserved carriage, which was fairly comfortable. Most of the carriages have leather-covered or the ordinary cane-bottomed seats. The gauge of the line was something between the broad and meter gauge in India. The names of the stations were displayed in Roman and Javanese characters, the spelling being, of course, on the Dutch system.

Buitenzorg was reached after about two and a half hours' journey. The rain continued the whole way, but did not suffice to obliterate the beauty of the scenery *en route*. On both sides of the line, as far as the eye could reach, there was

a dense mass of the most profuse tropical vegetation one could imagine.

Buitenzorg has an altitude of about two thousand feet above sea level, but the gradient of the line was very easy and gradual. After reaching our destination we drove to the Hôtel Bellevue, which, by the way, seemed to be very appropriately named, inasmuch as the outlook from the hotel verandah was a particularly fine one, and extended over beautifully wooded and extremely fertile valleys. Our arrival corresponded with the time for "Riztafel," which, at this place, was just the same as I described at Batavia.

The climate of Buitenzorg was a great improvement on that of Batavia, and in every way more pleasant and cooler than the latter. In this latitude a great equality of temperature exists at all times of the year owing to proximity to the Equator, and the days and nights are of about equal length. This being the rainy season, rain fell almost daily.

The salubriousness of Buitenzorg attracts many people of Batavia to live there, as by so doing they avoid the heat and other disadvantages of life in the latter place. For the same reasons the Governor-General has his principal residence at

Buitenzorg. An intimation reached me that the Governor-General Rooseboom would receive me at 6 o'clock, and shortly after one of his secretaries, in full uniform, called at the hotel to escort me to the Governor's residence. A State carriage was sent to take me there.

On arrival I was received, on alighting, by two of the Governor's secretaries, who escorted me up the steps, which were lined on either side by servants of the household, whose position was probably the same as that of orderlies in our country. The Governor met me at the top of the steps, where, after greeting me in English, which he spoke with facility, we proceeded to the reception-room, and had some conversation on general topics, during which tea was served. The Governor-General, I was told, hardly ever went on tour in the districts, some of which he had never seen. In this respect there was a striking difference to be noticed as compared with the Viceroy in India.

On leaving Government House, I drove about the place and admired the splendid avenues of kanari trees which bordered and shaded the excellent metalled roads. Here and there we came across pretty residences, always embowered in trees and the all-



A SCENE IN THE BOTANICAL GARDEN, BUITENZORG.

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pervading luxuriant tropical vegetation. The kanari tree is a magnificent specimen, and grows to a great height; I have never heard of it in other countries, and I believe it to be indigenous to this island.

Buitenzorg, notwithstanding its excellent climate and delightful surroundings, appeared to lack vitality; this was also noticeable in the Dutch residents, whose innate conservatism had been enhanced by residence for prolonged periods in the enervating Tropics.

January 6 was profitably and pleasantly spent in seeing the famous botanical gardens, which are, without exception, the finest in the world, and cover several square miles in area. Arboriculture in this place is brought to the highest pitch of excellence; this of course being a matter of no difficulty where soil, climate, moisture, etc., all lend their aid in bringing plants of all kinds to perfection. I particularly admired the manner in which portions of this lovely garden were laid out; there were slopes and terraces bordering a miniature river, and the so-called landscape effects were indicative of the highest kind of skill.

The Dutch have the reputation of being the cleverest gardeners in Europe, and I must say their descendants in Java have lost none of their hereditary

skill. The only other place at all resembling the botanical gardens, or which could be classed with it, is the Paradinya garden, near Kandy, in Ceylon ; but this, although very fine, takes a place second to the one I have been describing at Buitenzorg.

Another place I saw at Buitenzorg, although interesting, was not so pleasant a sight as the botanical garden, *viz.* the lunatic asylum. The Governor-General strongly advised me to see this place, which he said was the finest institution of the kind in the East. The result of my visit did not belittle his description. The director and the doctor went all over it with me, and showed me everything worth seeing. One portion of the premises was set apart for the accommodation of European patients, and another for the Asiatics ; of course, the sexes were separated.

The whole place was maintained in first-rate order, and the unfortunate inmates appeared to have everything necessary and even comforts. I felt quite nervous when taken to the place where the dangerous lunatics were confined, but the doctor reassured me by going on in advance. Some of the inmates were playing games (of which they kept no score), others were amusing themselves in

a variety of ways. Some of the patients were as jovial as could be; others were in a condition of chronic depression; again, others were beating themselves. One man said he was King of England; another said, quite seriously, that he was monarch of Spain. It was a pitiful sight to see so many people who were absolutely irresponsible for their conduct and actions.

The next day we effected an early departure by train, and the journey down was most enjoyable, as both sides of the railway formed a panorama of the most beautiful scenery in Java. We steamed past a number of large tea and coffee plantations, and noticed the grand manner in which the wealthy planters appeared to live; their houses were really very fine, and each planter appeared to be "monarch of all he surveyed." The journey by rail was interesting in another sense, as from the train we saw some of the highest peaks in Java, which probably reach from 8,000 to 9,000 feet; they are volcanic in origin. The train by which we travelled actually reached an altitude of 5,000 feet, and in places the rails were formed into circles in order to make the gradient less severe.

There were no refreshment cars attached to the

train, but this was not a serious inconvenience, as one could get "Riz-tafel" in baskets at the big stations, which could be taken in the train. We reached Bandong at midday, and drove to the Hôtel Homann. In travelling one cannot avoid making comparisons, and this I found myself doing whenever I entered a hotel in Dutch Indies. They were superior in the matter of accommodation, appointments, cleanliness, etc., etc., to anything we are accustomed to in towns of about the same size and importance in India. For an ordinary-sized room, etc., the tariff was anything between five and ten gulden¹ per day inclusive.

The hotels are usually one-storey structures, with a verandah running the entire length. An inconvenient feature was the great distance that usually separated the living-rooms from the bathrooms. Sometimes one found a sort of covered passage connecting the two, but more often there was no protection whatever from the sun and rain. The sanitary arrangements, I may add, were not according to the latest methods. The Europeans, like the natives, avoided the use of a tub when bathing, and merely poured water over their bodies.

¹ One gulden equals about Rs.1/8/o.

In accordance with my invariable practice on reaching a place, I went for a drive soon after we got to Bandong. Being the headquarters of a division and boasting a Resident, the place is one of some importance. It is admirably situated on a plateau surrounded by hills, and for this reason enjoys a climate superior to that of most places in Java.

I was surprised to find some really good shops in such an out-of-the-way place. Bandong has nothing particular to attract sightseers, and beyond the substantial Residency building and some of the houses of the European residents, there was nothing to be seen. I may note one curious feature, however, that is the odd houses in which the natives live; they are made entirely of wickerwork with thatched tops; from a distance they look exactly like large baskets.

On January 8 I visited the Indian chief's school during the morning, and was interested in it to an unusual degree, as I had heard that it was the only school in the country at which the sons of the nobility could get training and education together with a knowledge of the Dutch language. It is only a limited number of the superior class people who

can get this knowledge. The innate conservatism of the Dutchman in this matter is at once apparent when one is told that they have serious objection to the mass of the people acquiring a knowledge of Dutch, because it would make them too learned. Dutch, by the way, happens to be the only European language taught.

The Director met me at my hotel, and escorted me to the school, where I was received at the entrance by the Principal, who showed me all the different classes. The boys were all at work on various subjects, and it amused me to listen to their efforts to get the gutturals of the Dutch language during a reading-lesson. It must have been most laborious to them, as their own language is distinctly soft and musical. Several of the boys were the sons of Sultans and other highly placed members of the native aristocracy.

All were dressed in their usual costume of sarong and jacket; no shoes or stockings were worn. It also amused me to find that these young noblemen, as well as the common folk of the country, were forbidden to wear European civil clothing; half-castes apparently ranked as European—anyway, as far as their dress is concerned. It was also

noticeable that the men never had their hair cut. It was gathered together and fastened at the back of the head in the form of a knot. On asking why the hair was never cut, the reply came "Adat," or, habit.

I asked to see a specimen of the boys' handwriting, and found the characters were nothing but Arabic, pure and simple. This refers to the writing of the Malay language; but the characters of the Javanese language were totally different, and I failed to identify them. There is nothing in particular to mention with regard to the other subjects which were being studied by the pupils; they appeared to be the usual routine kind, such as arithmetic, reading, writing, geography, etc., etc. I may add that the study of geography was chiefly confined to Holland and Java. After completing my round of the school, I was shown the dormitories; these were decidedly comfortable, and furnished after the European style. Two boys occupied one room, in which they took their food, specially prepared for them in the manner they were accustomed to. On the approach of the Principal the boys fell on their knees, this being the form of salutation to a superior.

We departed at one o'clock, and after a journey without incident reached Maos at seven in the evening, where we found a comfortable bungalow. Maos is a Government halting-place, or, as it is called in Java, "passagrahn." As trains in Java only travel in the day, these halting bungalows are essential.

Djocjokarta was reached during the afternoon ; this name is probably derived from the Sanskrit Yogyakarta. We put up at the Hôtel Mataram. The town being very low down, and no rain having fallen for some days, it was intensely hot. One missed the punkah very much ; but with the exception of Batavia, where electric fans are installed, I did not see a punkah in the whole country.

The language difficulty at our hotel was a serious one, as none of the people understood either English, French, or German. We actually had trouble in procuring mutton for dinner, owing to the European manager being unable to interpret our wants. The difficulty was finally surmounted by one of us making a bleating noise similar to that usually emitted by a sheep, on hearing which the manager was full of intelligence and brought the mutton without delay. It was odd that many of the words are the same as ours : for instance, "roti" (bread), "mircha"

(pepper), are the same in both languages ; no doubt there are many other similarities. Moreover, several of the words in Javanese are derived from the Sanskrit and Arabic, and are precisely the same as in Hindustani.

We were in what is known as the "Vurstenland," which corresponds in Hindustani to Rajastan, or Princes' Land, Djocjokarta being the residence of the Sultan of that name. Near by is the State of Solokarta. The Sultan of the former place has leased that portion of it to the Dutch Government which is occupied by the Resident and the Dutch colony. The Residency is situated in the best part of the place and just opposite the moat of the Kraton or Palace of the Sultan.

The Dutchmen's houses appeared very snug, and overlooked fine broad tree-girt avenues. The merchants in that part of the world are certainly enterprising, and even in an out-of-the-way place like Djocjokarta fine shops flourished. A French barber had an up-to-date shop there, fitted with all modern appliances, and all the other shops were up to a standard of first-rate excellence. There is more native life to be seen there than in other parts of Java, owing, probably, to its being the seat of a

native potentate; and one could not help noticing the difference of rank indicated by the varying degree of size, colour, or kind of umbrella made use of. Even the rank of the people driving about in carriages was indicated by difference in the size or kind of umbrella, each of which had a different significance.

On the 10th we made an early start to visit the world-famous Temple of Boroboedoer. At each seven miles we had relays of ponies; and although we had four ponies in the carriage at one time, the journey occupied three and a half hours. The road was a fine broad one, on one side of which a steam tramway ran, with which we travelled parallel for a considerable distance.

The steam tramway seems to be popular, and is frequently seen in different places. Important towns and villages have the tramways running right through them, to the great convenience of the inhabitants. *En route* we came to a "passer," or open market-place, at which we alighted, as it was well worth a visit. The villagers bring their produce to these "passers" from the surrounding villages, and expose the different articles for sale. There was an heterogeneous collection of things, such as



THE TEMPLE OF BORBOEDOER

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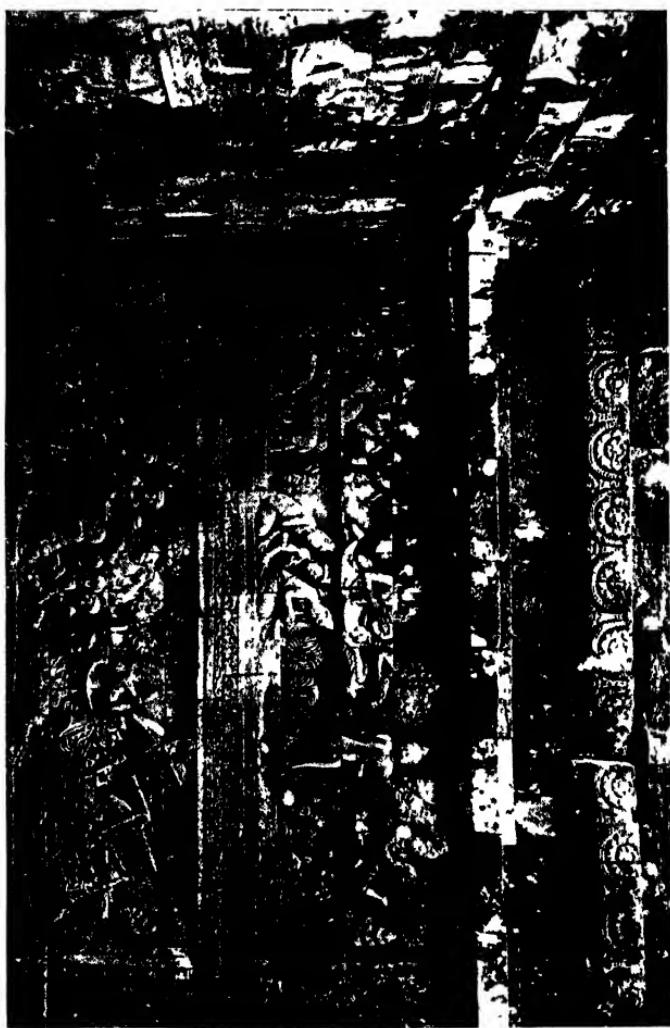
clothing, fruit, vegetables, and all kinds of household commodities and requisites, for sale. There was an abundant supply of fruit of excellent quality. I had never tasted a mangosteen in such perfection until I visited Java, and there I had ample opportunity, which I did not forego. Another fruit of a curious nature to be had there was the durian. Its smell, however, was so repugnant that although I was strongly tempted to try it, I could not muster sufficient courage. The odour of the fruit is so powerful that if it is left in a room for a few minutes, the place for some time afterwards becomes almost uninhabitable. Those who have overcome the repulsion due to its smell declare the fruit to be delicious.

After a tedious drive of four hours we were much struck, on suddenly emerging in view of this marvellous temple, to see its size and grandeur, for although the place is now in a ruinous condition, it requires little perspicuity to notice that at one time it must have been a magnificent affair. As near as I could guess, it now covers an area of five hundred yards square, and a cursory glance at the style of its architecture left no doubt on my mind as to the origin of this wonderful place, and the

influence of the Hindu school of architecture was apparent in a moment. Unfortunately no records showing its origin exist, but tradition says it was built by one of the old Buddhist kings about two thousand years ago.

The tradition referred to is supported by the fact that in or about the temple a tablet was exhumed bearing an inscription, "Siri Maharaja Mataram," on it in Sanskrit characters. This would appear to indicate that the Maharaja Mataram had built the temple, or was ruling at the time it was built. For a great many years the temple was absolutely lost to the world, and it is only within the last fifty years that archæologists, having discovered its value as a link with the past, have induced the Dutch Government to urge forward the exhumation of such a valuable relic. The Dutch Government has now awakened to a sense of its duty in the matter, and for the future the safety and maintenance of this place, as well as others of a similar kind, is assured.

The temple is well situated on a mound, the top of which is reached by a flight of steps. Some idea of the extent of the temple may be gained by walking around the first terrace. In our case this



SPECIMEN OF THE STONE CARVING AT BOROBUDUR TEMPLE.

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occupied quite an hour, and we found ourselves confronted by perhaps the best specimens of stone carving that exist anywhere. This carving, with extraordinary fidelity, represented and illustrated in detail the beautiful Hindu epic poem of the Mahabharata. The historical details were wonderfully worked out, and we were amazed by the very fine state of preservation most of the stone pictures were in after hundreds of years of exposure and neglect.

If one had an acquaintance with the Mahabharata, it was not difficult to follow the story on the stones before him, for there were depicted many of the chief historical portions of the poem. Particularly fine were the battle scenes depicted. At the head of his army a king rode, in majestic grandeur, on an elephant; following him were hordes of men, some afoot, some in war-chariots, all armed with spears, swords, bows and arrows, and other weapons of the period. The carvings appealed to our imaginations vividly, as they brought home to us with extraordinary force and truth every detail of costume, arms, animals, chariots, etc.

If one is to judge of the degree of civilisation a nation or people possesses by the condition of their

fine arts, then indeed must the people of India at the time the temple was built have been far advanced in civilisation. Nothing could exceed the artistic perception needed to conceive the work I have been describing, and it is difficult at this period to think that the workmanship and execution could be excelled or equalled. The style and, indeed, all in connection with the building of the temple, indicate beyond doubt that Indian workmen were imported and employed; and it is sad to look back and think of what in those days was achieved, the capability for which work was inherent in the people, and compare it with the productions of the present day, which lack the artistic touch of the bygone time. Why such a glorious art should have been lost to us is, to my mind, mysterious and sad.

I have described only one tier or storey of this palace of wonders; but it will serve for the others (there are four altogether), which, rising tier above tier, are reached by difficult steps. The other tiers are all much the same in style and character as that I have described. Surmounting the whole, there must have been, at one time, a dome, as the place where it rested is easily discernible. From

the top an enchanting view of the surrounding hills and country is obtainable. There, midst the silence, only broken by the twittering of the birds and the sigh of the wind, I stood and dreamt of the great past, the like of which, with all its glories, will never recur.

After lunch at a little rest-house near the temple, we wended our way back, and after a wet journey (it poured all the way), we reached our hotel at six in the evening. Time just permitted me to change into ceremonial dress before a State carriage, sent for me by the Sultan of Djocjokarta, arrived. In this I proceeded to the Dutch Residency, where I was received by the Resident and his staff. After some conversation in English, he preceded me, by pre-arrangement, to the palace of the Sultan, so as to be ready to receive me on my arrival there. The palace stands in an enormous walled enclosure, within which the whole establishment of about 15,000 lived.

On alighting from my carriage at the main entrance, I was met by the Dutch Resident and his staff, together with the Sultan's Ministers. Proceeding towards the palace at the entrance of the main courtyard, I was met by the Sultan's sons,

who were dressed in Dutch military uniforms with small turbans. There a guard of honour, composed of the Sultan's soldiers (who reminded me irresistibly of some of my brother chiefs' retainers at the Delhi Darbar) presented arms as the band played the Dutch national anthem.

Going still farther, we finally reached a sort of big open pavilion, or Darbar Hall, in which was the Sultan, who received me as the Resident doffed his kepi and introduced me by name. The Sultan then offered his arm to the representative of the suzerain power, and in this manner we entered the pavilion, where we were accommodated with three State chairs. The Sultan's sons and the Resident's staff were also supplied with seats, but the employés of the Sultan squatted on the ground near by.

His Highness the Sultan, who holds a commission in the Dutch army, was got up in the uniform of a general, and appeared with several decorations on his tunic. He is a man of about middle age, of pleasing and polite manners, but somewhat reserved. He knows no European language; hence everything I said to him or he said to me had to be translated by the Resident. After the exchange of the usual polite conventionalities, refreshments and cool drinks



His Highness the Sultan of Djocjokarta.
After a photograph presented to the Author.

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were served, and I took my departure. The fatigue of the day having been great, we were not displeased to retire.

The day after we left Djocjokarta for Solokarta, the capital of the most important Sultan in Java. An hour's run took us to our destination, and on arrival we drove straight to the Hôtel Slier. Solokarta is a place of superior importance, and is the seat of another Dutch Resident.

In the course of an afternoon drive we came across a large, imposing-looking building, and, on inquiry, we were informed that it was the residence of the Sultan's brother-in-law, by name Mankundukuru Adipati. After getting the necessary permission, we went inside to see the place. As seems to be the custom in that country, there was an absence of walls in the building, and the rooms were all large and lofty; the floors were tiled with marble, and the decoration and furnishing were Orientally ornate in character. The building itself was more like a huge pavilion than anything else, and was set in the middle of a large quadrangle, which, in turn, was surrounded by high walls. Mankundukuru Adipati is said to be one of the most powerful and enlightened princes subject to the Dutch. Owing

to the limited time at my disposal, no opportunity presented itself of making his acquaintance, which I would much liked to have done.

The next place that attracted my attention was the somewhat formidable-looking fort, which was so disposed as to command the Sultan's palace just opposite. I was curious to see the inside of the fort (where a number of Dutch troops with guns are stationed), but was not accorded permission, as it would have been contrary to the regulations. It may be in place here to mention the great difference in the matters of power and privileges between the Sultans in Java, under the Dutch, and the Rajas, in India, under the English. It was, of course, difficult, in such a short time as I stayed in Java, for me to judge personally of such a matter; but from what I was told (and the little I saw corroborated it), I arrived at the conclusion that, as regards authority and personal liberty, we in India are on the whole infinitely better off than the Sultans are in Java.

It is an amazing fact that neither of the big Sultans in Java have ever seen Batavia; and from this as well as other things which came to my knowledge the unhappy conclusion was forced on me that these



THE HIGHNESS THE SULTAN OF SOLOKARTA
(Whose full titles, &c., appear in the Javanese language under the portrait)

After a photograph presented to the Author

[Facing p. 202.]

unfortunate men, who, although treated with every outward form of courtesy and respect by the Dutch, were, after all, little better than political prisoners. In bygone times these Sultans fought the Dutch persistently, and when their resistance was finally overcome, the Dutch, in self protection, and to prevent further outbreaks, imposed such conditions of existence on the Sultans as to prevent for ever the possibility of their revolting.

It was curious to note the exhibition of Oriental nature in these Sultans; their personal jealousy is so great as to prevent the exchange of visits of courtesy. Oriental character is such as to make its possessors lose all the advantages of combination; and so the foreigner has ever succeeded where Orientals, by the display of some self-restraint, would have had at least an equal chance with their enemies. The Dutch in Java were not slow to observe the jealousies existing between the two most powerful Sultans in the country, and in their own interest naturally did nothing, and now refrain from doing anything, to bring about a more friendly condition of affairs between them. I found peculiar interest in observing such things and making mental notes of the comparative conditions in Java under

the Dutch rule to that prevailing in India under the English *régime*. The two countries I have named are among the very few, I think, where such an analogy exists, and, being an interested person myself, my curiosity was, of course, excited. This led me to make certain inquiries, in response to which I acquired information to the effect that the income of Solokarta is about 4,000,000 florins (Rs. 6,000,000) per annum; besides this, the Sultan receives a subsidy of 70,000 florins monthly from the Dutch Government—a system differing materially in this respect from that prevailing in India.

The Sultan of Solokarta's military force consists of about 1,500 irregulars, which term, as applied to them, is perfectly comprehensive. They are armed with weapons of an exceedingly ancient date, and these would seem to be more in place in a museum as curiosities than in the hands of a soldier. The Sultan has a bodyguard of Dutch European soldiers; it is sixty strong and commanded by a captain attached to the Sultan's Court. At least a portion of the bodyguard accompanies the Sultan where he goes, which fact, in addition to others, makes it tolerably clear that while the bodyguard



HER HIGHNESS THE SULTANA OF SOLOKARIA.

[Facing p. 4.]

is ostensibly an honour accorded by the supreme power, the latter at the same time desires that the Sultan shall not remain long without surveillance!

The total feminine population of the Sultan's household numbers about 6,000, and out of this large number some hundred or so are accredited to the Sultan himself. The remainder are relations, wives of officials, servants, etc.

It was difficult to ascertain, in the short time at my disposal, the extent and scope of these Sultans' powers over their subjects; but I was informed that they had authority over their people residing in their respective States; but on all important matters they are expected to consult the Dutch Resident, who is touchingly designated "elder brother."

I was invited that evening to an entertainment by the Sultan of Solokarta (whose official designation is Susuhnan), which he was kind enough to get up in my honour. The Dutch Resident was unfortunately absent on that occasion, but his Chief Secretary came to receive me on behalf of his superior, and accompanied me to the Sultan's palace in the carriage which the Sultan had placed at my disposal. A number of officers of the Resident's

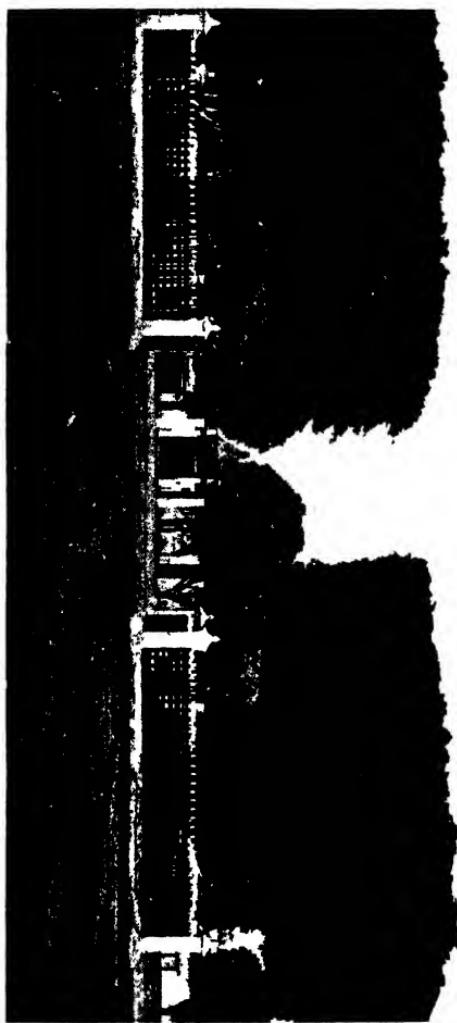
staff, as well as some ladies from the Residency, were present at the entertainment.

The details of my reception by the Sultan of Solokarta were much the same as those I have already described at Djocjokarta, the chief difference being that on this occasion the reception was, partly owing to the higher rank of Solokarta, and partly owing to the superior magnificence of his Court and surroundings, on a much more elaborate scale. The etiquette observed, however, was the same on both occasions. I was most cordially received by His Highness on my arrival, and he immediately conducted me to a dais, on which were standing Her Highness the Ratobe, or Sultana, with a number of princesses and ladies of the Court, to all of whom we were duly presented. The ceremony of presentation was very simple. The Sultan, still continuing the cordial manner with which I was greeted on arrival, retained my arm in his, and introduced me to each of the ladies in turn. I made a bow, and the ladies responded feebly by shaking hands.

The dresses of the ladies were of a class peculiar to themselves, and I had never seen anything of the same kind in any other country. I

THE ENTRANCE TO THE VITAN PALACE, SOLOKARTA

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am not an adept at describing ladies' dresses, so will refer my readers to the photographs in this book for further details ; these give a realistic idea of the get-up of a Javanese princess. Some jewels were worn, and the ladies (especially the Sultan's daughters) were distinctly attractive and refined in appearance.

The ladies were somewhat mechanical in their movements, and their faces were to a great extent expressionless ; they completely lacked vivacity in manner and appearance. On the other hand, they were attractively costumed, and looked daintily fragile in their pretty gowns. I was obliged to notice, or the fact was forced on me, that the Javanese ladies, had a decided *penchant* for perfumery of diverse kinds ; and that they are in the habit of using many kinds at one time which produced an indescribable odour which resembled the emanation from flowers of the orient in which sandal-wood oil predominated.

The presentations over, we were invited to seat ourselves, with the Sultan and Sultana, on some elaborately gilded chairs placed in the front part of the dais. On our right were the princesses, and beyond them were the male members of the Sultan's

family. On our left were placed the Resident's staff and mine. Opposite, but some distance from our dais, were squatted a number of the Sultan's Ministers and officials of the Court; all wore their quaint headdress and distinctive but attractive costume.

The pavilion in which we were seated was of great extent, and capable of accommodating a very large number of people; the space, although so large, was fully occupied, and largely by ladies of the household and Court. These were dressed in a curtailed garment comprising a sarong of the country and a waistband carried up to the under-part of the arms, thus leaving the upper part of the body completely exposed.

I was informed that it would have been contrary to Court etiquette had they appeared in less *décolleté* costume. Only the ladies of the Sultan's family have the privilege of covering their bosoms and shoulders. The system of pardah (or seclusion of women) to which we are accustomed in India has no place in Java; but although the women there do not labour under the disadvantages of that system, they nevertheless do not mix in the society of men, and they appear in public only on special occasions;



THE SULTAN OF SOIOKARIA'S DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW

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their social status is the same as that of women in all Oriental countries.

Immediately behind the Sultan and Sultana were the former's personal female attendants. These women were of various ages ; one old dame of about sixty attracted my attention by continually muttering blessings on her master. I glanced around and caught her eye, upon which she smiled and showered blessings on my head. I was informed that her blessings comprised thanks to the Almighty for having sent such a distinguished person as myself to visit her august master ! From time to time one of the Sultan's women attendants came forward and massaged his legs.

The mode of saluting was the same as that practised in the Punjab : both hands in contact, with which the forehead was touched. Even the Sultan's sons and chief consort, when addressed by him, responded by a gesture of the kind described. The code of etiquette in these Courts is very strictly adhered to ; one detail amused me much. It is forbidden for servants to approach the Sultan in an upright position ; so when a thing has to be brought, it becomes rather a feat of gymnastics on the part of the servant, who is obliged to come forward in

a crouching position almost amounting to sitting on the ground. In this state of high discomfort they are obliged at the same time to propel themselves forward to complete their errand.

His Highness the Sultan's titles are as follows: "Hingkang Sinoehoen Kang Pakoe Boemono Senopati Ingaloje Rachman Sajidin Panotogomo; Knight Commander of the Lion of the Netherlands; Great Officer of the Order of Orange, Nassau; Knight Grand Cross of the French Colonial Order of Kambodia; Knight Grand Order of the Crown of Siam; Great Officer of the Order of Leopold of Belgium; Major-General in the Netherlands Army." He is, however, popularly known as the "Nail of the Universe." On the occasion I am describing he was costumed in a beautifully embroidered red jacket and a handsome sarong. He also wore a number of dazzling jewelled orders of the Dutch, Belgian, French, Siamese, and German Governments.

During our conversation it was made known to me by the Sultan that he possessed other orders and decorations so numerous that there was insufficient room for them at one time on his tunic. It struck me as being curious that the Dutch

Government, whose repressive measures in dealing with their feudatory princes were so obvious, should, in the matter of allowing them to accept decorations from foreign Governments, be so liberal-minded. The Sultan asked me how many decorations I possessed, and I was obliged to admit that the British Government was, in this matter, not so broad-minded, and it disapproved of any Indian prince receiving foreign decorations. The Sultan's orders were all received by him from foreign Sovereigns and princes who visited him from time to time in Java—of course, with the consent of the Dutch Government.

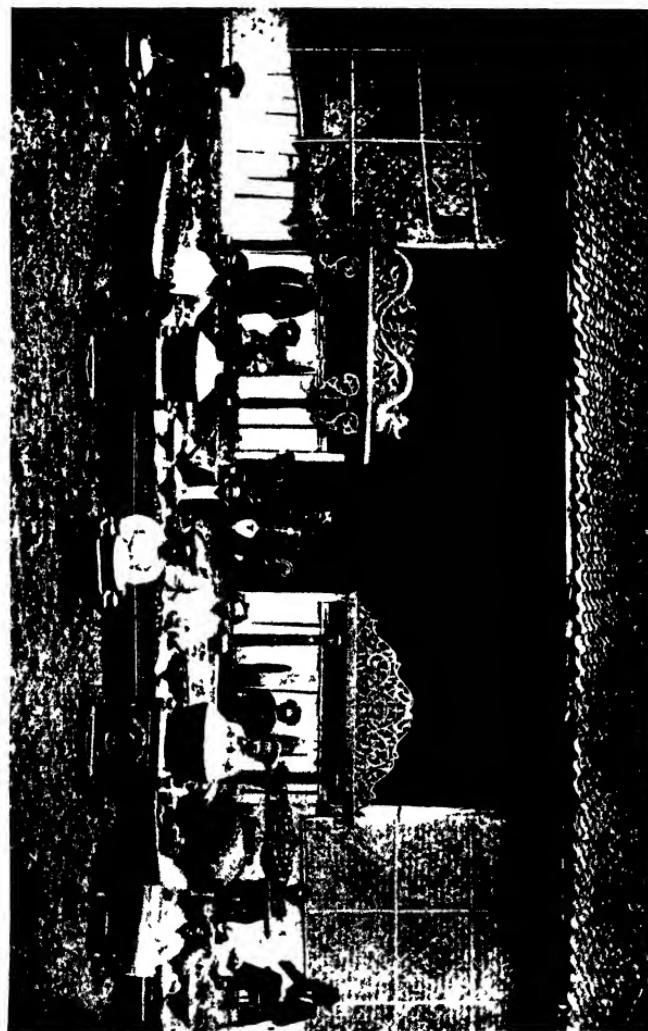
The conversation I had with the Sultan was carried on through the medium of the Dutch Chief Secretary, who made use of the French language for the purposes of interpretation. I was asked to give an opinion as to whether the Solokarta Palace entertainment and surroundings were or were not superior to those of Djocjokarta. Answers to such questions I found most difficult to give, and parried them in my most diplomatic manner. From our conversation and my host's manner, as well as from things I had heard, I gathered that he wasted no affection on his neighbour the Sultan of Djocjokarta;

the rivalry and jealousy between them was of a perfectly open character. Probably, if the Dutch were to remove themselves from Java, the rival Sultans would be at one another's throats promptly, and revive the old state of chaos and bloodshed which existed in the time gone by.

To describe the entertainment itself is a matter of much difficulty, and to do justice to it would require the pen of a writer of Pierre Loti's ability. The scene before me was one of bewitching beauty, and one, in my experience of the many countries in the East which were known to me, unparalleled.

First came the musicians with their quaint instruments, who took up the places allotted to them. Then followed the *corps de ballet*, consisting of about fifty girls all dressed in handsome embroidered sarongs and low vests. These marched in one-eighth time, two and two, in a languorous manner from the back portion of the pavilion, and finally deployed into two parallel lines opposite the dais on which we were seated. The girls all belong to the Sultan's family, and are probably related to him. They were good-looking, of slender physique, and appeared to range in age from fourteen to

COLF MILITIANS SOLOKARI



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eighteen. Their colour is olive and their features somewhat Mongolian in type.

On arriving at the dais, the girls made an obeisance, kneeling, with joined hands, and then commenced the dance proper. This consisted of numberless postures, accompanied by a slow waving of the arms and corresponding movements of the head; languorous progress in certain directions, together with the genuflections described, made up the figures of the dance.

All this was done by clever movements of the body, during which the feet played an inferior part. The figures of the dance were complicated and numerous; circles, squares, marches backwards and forwards became after a time quite bewildering in their multiplicity. Occasionally one of the female attendants was obliged to intrude on the charmed circle of dancers, for the purpose of adjusting the trailing skirt of one of them, which, being inconveniently long, could not be attended to by the wearer.

The musicians did not confine themselves wholly to instrumental music, as every now and again they burst out in a wild and weird chant of vocal music, which in character reminded me somewhat of the

music of our country. My imagination was fired by the novelty of the scene in front of me to such an extent that I was mentally translated to certain periods described in the Mahabharata ; my imagination carried me to the Court of the Raja Indra, renowned in Indian mythology. However, a glance at the black evening dresses and uniforms of the European guests sufficed to remind me that I still lived in the twentieth century.

Upon thanking and complimenting my host on the splendid entertainment he had provided for me, he replied that had he known of my visit earlier, he would have turned out his *corps de ballet* in its full strength of about two hundred girls. The entertainment (which lasted for about an hour) was well worth going all the way to Java to see only. On its conclusion, my host conducted me through a number of his apartments, which were furnished and decorated in the style peculiar to Java. An article of furniture which seemed to be specially venerated was a large, handsome, carved and gilded bedstead, used as a sort of royal bridal couch, and which occupied the place of honour in a large room behind the reception hall.

Followed by a number of Court officials, flunkeys

and attendants, we made our way to one of our host's favourite summer houses in the garden, where we consumed a number of delectable and cooling beverages. There we remained for some time. Before my departure the Sultan was good enough to present me with a handsome walking-stick, mounted in gold, and bearing his monogram worked in diamonds on the handle. Midnight having arrived, we took our departure, after bidding our kind-hearted host farewell, and so ended what was perhaps the most intensely interesting day of many I spent in the Far East.

The next morning, in company with the Sultan's sons, I spent pleasantly in visiting his mosque (a commonplace affair), his elephants, and a portion of his palace. The most interesting part of the latter was the "toshakhana," or treasury, in which I saw sufficient gold and silver plate, as well as crockery, chinaware, etc., to provide for two hundred guests at one time. Upon my expressing a wish to see the Sultan's jewels (which I was told were of exceptional value and beauty), I was politely informed that, owing to some superstition, it was considered of ill omen to show such valuables to visitors, and therefore my desire could not be gratified.

We next saw the armoury, in which was an interesting collection of ancient weapons of no use except, of course, as curiosities. The night before the Sultan had offered to hold a review of his troops (which he said numbered 2,000) for my entertainment; but on asking to see them the next morning, I learnt that it would take quite a week to collect them, as they were scattered far and wide. Moreover, my informant said it would hardly be worth while to summon them, as some of the horses had no saddles, and many of the soldiers had guns but no uniform, while those who were the happy possessors of uniforms had no guns, and so on.

The idea of a review was thus, for obvious reasons, abandoned. In reply to a question from me, my informant told me further, with much *naiveté*, that the existing condition of chaotic disorder was due to the policy of the Dutch Government, which did not like to think of the Sultan's soldiers being in any respect as well armed or as efficient as its own.

Our next move took us to the stables, where about one hundred riding animals and some fifty carriages were accommodated. The stables were managed by a retired Dutch cavalry sergeant in



MEMBERS OF THE SULTAN OF SOLOKARIA'S FAMILY IN
EUROPEANISED GARB.

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the Sultan's service ; he did the honours of the establishment when we visited it. Some horses, fully caparisoned in the Javanese fashion, which bore much resemblance to that prevailing in India, were trotted out for our inspection. These were mounted by syces, who wore neither boots nor breeches, who, nevertheless, did not appear to miss them much.

During our inspection the old duenna who was so attentive during the ballet the night before appeared on the scene loaded with compliments from her master, and, what was highly appreciated, a number of cool, refreshing drinks. The old dame was extremely polite, and followed us about for the remainder of the morning.

The carriage stables next had our attention ; these also were in charge of an old Dutchman. Some of the vehicles we saw were really elaborately and beautifully finished traps ; but the State coach, which the Sultan on rare occasions used, came in for the most admiration. It had been built in Europe about half a century ago, and was of the most elaborate kind ; it reminded me of the old Versailles coach, and was said to have cost 40,000 florins originally.

During the afternoon, we left by train, and were

seen off at the station by the Sultan's sons and the Ministers. The former, I may mention, are quiet and gentle-looking boys; two of them are shortly leaving for Holland for their education. They spoke no European language other than Dutch.

En route to Djocjokarta we alighted at a roadside station and paid a hurried visit to the Brambanam temples. It was a pity that the visit was such a hurried one, as the temples are well worth serious study, and, being of Hindu origin, were on this account of peculiar interest to us. Being obliged, however, to reach Djocjokarta the same evening, we had no alternative but to curtail a visit which might easily and with profit have been prolonged.

Three enormous temples stand in a circle, which includes a hundred smaller ones. We entered two of the larger ones, and were immediately confronted by the large effigies of the familiar deities of Hinduism; there were Vishnu, Shiva, and Ganesha, all in a state of excellent preservation. The temples are now in a ruinous condition, but their size and extent serve to give one a good idea of the hold Hinduism once had on the people of that land, and of the

heavy expenditure they incurred on the building and ornamentation of their places of worship.

With the exception of some people who live on some islands near by, and who still worship after the Hindu fashion, that religion has ceased to exist in Java. As an example of the Hindu influence and weakness of the Dutch Government, it was curious to hear that lately one of the princes under the Dutch died ; his successor forcibly caused the widows to commit *sati*, or self-immolation, on hearing of which the Government refused to recognise the successor until he promised that such an occurrence should not take place in the future. Other ruins of high importance exist in Java ; but, our time being extremely limited, we were sorry to be unable to visit them.

No train being available when our inspection of the temples was finished, we were obliged to drive to Djocjokarta (about twenty miles away), which we reached in time for dinner. An entertainment had been got up in my honour by the Sultan of Djocjokarta the same night, which the Resident and a number of Dutch officers attended. Some civilians also were present. The whole palace was *en fête*, and on that occasion the general public were admitted.

There must have been many thousands present, as the whole of the huge walled enclosure was filled.

There, as at Solokarta, the entertainment chiefly took the form of a ballet, and it was of much the same type. About twenty girls participated, and they differed from those I saw at Solokarta in the matter of dress only. They had also applied some kind of white pigment to their faces and black to their eyebrows, which were continued artificially across the top of the nose, and were made to curl in an extraordinary manner over the temples.

These young women are taught to dance from a very early age, and are made to practise some form of it every day for a certain time. They are all connected with the Sultan's household, and they are offered in marriage by the Sultan to men of rank and position at his option. At the conclusion of the ballet a dagger dance was given, in which those participating exhibited much dexterity in the apparently dangerous manipulation of the daggers. Then followed a sort of play, in which was represented an episode of the Mahabharata, a fight between Janak and Sri Sohella, in which the mimic warriors were apparelled in old-style Hindu costumes, and fought fiercely with bows and arrows. The combatants

in this case were represented by the sons and relatives of the Sultan.

The force of Hinduism and the deep impression it left on the Javanese is strikingly exhibited in another instance by the reverence with which they to this day refer to and read the *Mahabharata*.

My neighbour at the entertainment was an old Dutch gentleman, who held the post of Government archæologist. He knew every detail of the play being performed, and the information he gave me on this subject, as well as on others, was of the highest interest. He had passed forty years of his life in Java, and, of course, was most learned on all matters connected with the archæology and history of the island.

The Hindu character of the play itself, and of my surroundings generally, impressed me greatly, for, notwithstanding the Mohammedan religion of my host and his subjects, there appeared to be nothing in their manner or habits to give one the idea that one was staying in a Mohammedan country. On the contrary, all things, the people, their method of salutation, their manners, etc., gave one who had lived in India the impression of Hinduism as practised and seen in the South of

India, which, by the way, is the only part of India which retains its original customs uncontaminated by the strong Mohammedan influence perceptible in Central and Northern India. On taking leave, the Sultan bade me "salamat"—otherwise safety, or safe journey.

On January 13 we turned our faces homewards, and passed the night at Maos, which place we left at the unearthly hour of five in the morning. On reaching Bandong, I was surprised to see quite a crowd collected on the platform, and among them I was delighted to see a number of Punjabis. They brought fruit and money offerings for my acceptance, and there was an obvious effort on their part to give me a great reception. I chatted with some of my countrymen present, and discovered, to my great astonishment, that two of them were natives of a village near Phagwara, and consequently my subjects. I inquired what circumstances had taken them so far from their homes, and was informed that originally they went to Java to better their condition, and there they had remained. A long, tiresome journey brought us to Batavia, where we spent the night in our old quarters at the Hôtel des Indes.

THE KAPURTHALA PRINCES.

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on January 23; but we did not leave her until eight, and subsequently spent the day at the Galle Face Hotel very comfortably. In the afternoon I visited my acquaintances M. and Madame Marguerite on board their delightful 500-ton yacht the *Ophelie*, in which they had come all the way from Marseilles, and in which they were returning after visiting India. At the hotel I met Prince Victor Dhulip Singh, who was *en route* to Sumatra after tiger. The remainder of the evening was passed pleasantly at the hotel among other birds of passage who were waiting their respective steamers, and finally we embarked on the M.M. steamer *Caledonien* at midnight, soon after which time we sailed once more.

The *Caledonien*, although a vessel of only about 4,000 tons, was nevertheless fairly comfortable to travel in. There were few passengers. One of them, the Count de Perigni, who had been making an extended tour through the East, subsequently travelled with me to Kapurthala, where he remained for some time as my guest.

We reached Bombay during the afternoon of the 26th, where we experienced an annoying delay in getting ashore. There seemed to be no reason

The business portion of Batavia is situated about four miles from the European residential quarter, and to the former I made my way during the morning. The place seemed to be very bustling, and obviously there was a large amount of business being transacted.

Our sojourn in Java being at an end, we embarked at Tanjung Priok on board the M.M. steamer *La Seyne*, which vessel deals with the traffic between Batavia and Singapore, in conjunction with the French mail steamers, bi-monthly. It was pleasant indeed, after our late experiences, to find our wants understood, and servants about us who were prompt and efficient.

At Singapore we were fortunate in securing passages by the new and luxurious French steamer *Annam*, on which we embarked on January 18. I was further fortunate in meeting a number of people among the passengers whom I knew. The voyage during the next four days to Colombo was devoid of incident ; the weather was cool and pleasant, the sea smooth, and so the time passed agreeably enough, the days being filled up in writing my book of travels and reading, while the evenings were usually devoted to bridge.

The *Annam* reached Colombo at one o'clock



why the passengers should not have been allowed to disembark, as there were plenty of opportunities before the steamer was docked. However, after about four hours, we got ashore in Princes' Dock, whence we proceeded direct to the newly built palatial Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, where I was delighted to find my four dear sons awaiting my advent. It was indeed pleasing to find them well and fit after my long absence.

The Taj Mahal Hotel is a magnificent place, replete with every modern convenience and up-to-date in every respect. India owes a great debt of gratitude to the enterprising Parsee, the late Mr. Jamsetjee Tata, whose knowledge of local requirements caused him to build an hotel in every way deserving of that name, and one which any city in the world might be proud to possess. The tariff, I may add, is on a scale of magnificence equalling the building itself!

After a few days' stay in Bombay, during which I visited Lord Lamington, the Governor, we proceeded to Kapurthala, which place we reached on February 1, after one of the most enjoyable journeys I had ever made, extending, as it did, over twenty-five thousand miles, through some of

the most interesting countries in the world. But, after all, there is no place like home, and I was glad to rejoin my people once more. My only regret in connection with the journey was that I had, perforce, given such a short time to the study, in their own countries, of some of the most conservative as well as the most modern people in the Far East.

FINIS

